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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, DECEMBER 11 - 13, 2015

GOLDEN GLOBES
The nods, the snubs and the BIG OOPS!
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TAXATION

WHY CAN'T THE GOVERNMENT TREAT THESE DRINKS EQUALLY?

metroNEWS



Maritimes set to greet refugees

RESETTLEMENT

All 108 provincial counties working to support process

Julia Manoukian
For Metro | Halifax

Forty-six privately sponsored refugees are destined for Halifax by the end of December, the provincial government announced Thursday.

The province has also offered to resettle up to 1,500 refugees, but the final decision on that move is up to the federal government.

"I am amazed, but not surprised, by the generosity being shown by Nova Scotians for our newest Nova Scotians," Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab said at the press conference held Thursday at One Government Place in downtown Halifax.

All 108 counties in Nova Scotia now have groups working to welcome refugees.

More coverage, metroNEWS



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Making medical imaging fun

HEALTH

New scanner helps decrease sedation rates in kids: Doctor



The IWK Health Centre is now home to an extra-special Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

This week the Halifax hospital unveiled the new Adventure Series SPECT/CT digital imaging machine from GE Healthcare in a jungle-themed room, the first in Canada.

Dr. Steven Burrell said the new machine combines a nuclear medicine camera (SPECT) with a CT scanner for better images of a patient's physiology or disease as well as the structure of their anatomy.

"It's sort of the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup of imaging," said Burrell, a nuclear medicine physician, beside the machine Thursday.

"Chocolate — really good on its own, peanut butter — really good on its own, but together they're better."

Although the machine itself is vital to getting higher-quality images that hopefully lead to better diagnoses and treatment for a variety of illnesses including cancer, bone diseases and infection, Burrell said the room itself is also unique.

Stepping stones painted on the floor lead into the bright-



Sandra MacDonald, a nuclear medicine technologist with the IWK Health Centre, demonstrates the new GE Adventure Series SPECT/CT digital imaging machine at the Halifax children's hospital Thursday. **The jungle-themed room is designed to be less intimidating for young children.** JEFF HARPER/METRO

green room, where animals like a tiger and hippo decorate the walls and the bed attached to the machine is made to look like a canoe made from a hollow log.

If kids are more focused on what's going on around them and excited to point out the fish painted on the machine itself or the fun decorations, Burrell said, they might not

need to be sedated for the scan.

The room and machine together may be unique in Canada, but Burrell said the data shows wherever these rooms are used the sedation rates in small children

\$950k

The province spent **\$950,000** on the health centre's new SPECT/CT digital imaging scanner.

are "much lower" than they would be otherwise.

Sandra MacDonald, nuclear medicine technologist, said they can break up how long the scans take, but usually kids have to lie in the machine for 30 to 60

minutes at a time.

That's why it's easier to engage their attention by telling them to watch for jumping fish as they lie in the "canoe," MacDonald said, since the images on the machine will move over them as the camera rotates.

"To be able to have this type of room to do the imaging in, that is a big win," MacDonald said.

Having happy young patients also allows the parents' stress to go down as they realize they won't have to drag their children into such a fun room, MacDonald said.

"For the IWK to have the very first installation of a room designed ... to change their imaging experience — that's pretty exciting," MacDonald said.

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Saint Mary's University will offer beginner Arabic classes

LANGUAGE LEARNING

22 Arabic-speaking countries in the world

Rebecca Dingwell
For Metro | Halifax

For Haligonians who have always wanted to learn Arabic, you'll soon get a chance.

In the new year, The Language Centre at Saint Mary's University will be offering introductory courses in Arabic.

Muhammad Elhabibi, who will be teaching the course, said Thursday that Arabic is a widely-spoken language in Halifax.

"A lot of immigrants come from the Arab world, in addition to the Syrians who are coming very soon," Elhabibi

said. "You live in an (apartment) building and possibly, you may have a neighbour who speaks Arabic."

Globally, there are 22 Arabic-speaking countries with different dialects. The course at SMU will focus on what Elhabibi refers to as "classical Arabic."

"There is only one level (of the language) that is understood by all," Elhabibi said. "If you speak to ... a man from Djibouti, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya ... or wherever, they will understand what you are talking about."

Elhabibi also pointed out that since many students at SMU speak Arabic, professors could benefit from learning some basics of the language as well.

"If they learn some Arabic, especially pragmatic Arabic, they will be able to understand the minds of their students," he said.

"This is an ambitious plan

+ REFUGEES

The Language Centre will also be opening up 10 fully sponsored one-year courses in English to refugees. The program, created in partnership with Language Canada, is expected to be launched in 2016.

for teaching Arabic in Halifax."

The courses will begin in mid-January, with the first class open to 15 people. The course will be four weeks long, with two hour classes twice a week.

According to Elhabibi, the classes will focus on listening and speaking, but students will do some reading and writing as well.

"It's very, very expressive," Elhabibi said of the language. "They use different tools that



Muhammad Elhabibi of Saint Mary's University. JEFF HARPER/METRO

are not used in English." Elhabibi said the initial

class is a "trial" of sorts, and there is a possibility of it be-

coming a full semester course later on.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Program connects military families with physicians

A new service that connects military families with physicians is available in Halifax as of Thursday.

The Calian Military Family Doctor Network has signed on four clinics and seven physicians, all whom practise at Calian's Primacy Clinics at Superstore locations across Halifax Regional Municipality.

"The families supporting our Canadian Armed Forces serving members experience many unique challenges. We are happy

to do our part to help alleviate some of that burden through improved access to family physicians within our network," Calian's vice-president of health services, Scott Murray, said Thursday.

According to the 2013 National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces Ombudsman's report, military families are four times less likely to have a family physician than civil families.

Holly Rye of the Military Family Resource Centre said Thursday family members were

enthusiastic about the service because they've been missing the support they need for so long.

Rye said constant relocation, a lifestyle of high risk and family separation are the three main factors that separate the needs of military and civilian families.

The Military Family Doctor Network originally launched in Winnipeg in July and has seen more than 60 patients referred to family physicians in the first four months of the program.

JULIA MANOUKIAN/FOR METRO

HUMAN RIGHTS

Youth win award for work in Gender/Sexuality Alliance

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards were presented at Government House Thursday, commemorating the 65th International Human Rights Day.

A group of students from Highland Park Junior High's Gender/Sexuality Alliance took home the youth award. The alliance created a gender-neutral washroom and helps to raise awareness of the province's Guidelines for Supporting Trans-

gender and Gender-nonconforming Students.

Warren C. "Gus" Reed and Afua Cooper are the two recipients of this year's Dr. Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones award for individuals, according to a news release. Reed is a well-known advocate for accessibility, inclusion and the rights of people with disabilities. Cooper is a tireless community leader, advocate, academic and author

in the area of cultural diversity and inclusion.

Project ARC — Action, Responsibility, Choice — is this year's recipient in the group/organization category. The group of youths aged 12 to 18 use performing arts and interactive peer education to engage children and youth on issues of human rights, respect and inclusion, the release said.

JULIA MANOUKIAN/FOR METRO

Donations pouring in

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Nova Scotia's new arrivals especially need winter clothes

Julia Manoukian
for Metro | Halifax

Nova Scotians looking to donate items for incoming refugees can drop them off starting Saturday at the old Rona building in Bayers Lake, located at 350 Horseshow Lake Drive in Halifax.

Building co-owner George Armoyan Jr. said his parents were lucky enough to immigrate to Canada on their own accord.

He wants to help provide refugees with the same opportunities Nova Scotia provided for his family.

"Nova Scotia was a place where my dad was able to work hard and build a better life for his family and himself," he said Thursday.

"We hope that with this gesture, the donations received at the building will help the families new to Canada, so that they too can work hard and build better lives," Armoyan Jr. added.

"We're confident these families will be valuable additions and become upstanding citizens of Canada and the Nova Scotian community."

Since 211 was set up Nov. 17 to assist donors, the phone line has received 2,123 calls, emails and voicemails from Nova Scotians offering assistance, the provincial government said Thursday. That's an average of 100 calls a day.

Callers from the Halifax Regional Municipality will receive an email or voicemail telling them how they can drop off their donations, the province explained.

Immigration Minister Lena Metlege said Thursday the overwhelming support makes her



Workers from JBT Office Install set up partitions at a soon-to-be drop-off site in Halifax for Syrian refugees Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

proud to be Nova Scotian.

"Nova Scotians are giving whatever they can, from a five dollar bill in a card to the premier's office to the generous donation of a building from Armco Capital and Rank Inc.," Diab said.

Organizers have highlighted a need for winter outerwear and footwear, warm sweaters and socks, children's clothing, new backpacks with school supplies, toys and baby gear and specific types of furniture and household items.



Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab speaks during a media update Thursday at One Government Place in downtown Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

TAXIS

Accused cabbie's licence reinstated

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax committee will not reconsider its decision to reinstate the taxi licence for a driver charged with sexual assault.

The city's appeals standing committee accepted a letter Thursday from Amanda Halliday, asking it to reconsider in a public forum its reinstatement of Bassam Al-Rawi's taxi licence.

The committee accepted the letter, and at the request of Coun. Gloria McCluskey, will be sending a response to Halliday, explaining why it won't be revisiting the appeal.

Halifax Regional Municipality solicitor Randolph Kinghorne told the committee that it can't revisit a matter that it's already ruled on unless one of the parties involved says there was some kind of mistake with the original ruling.

"In terms of revisiting a decision, without the consent of the parties, you have no jurisdiction to do so," he said during Thursday's meeting.

Committee chair Coun. Matt Whitman stood by the committee's original decision.

A section of the letter sent to the committee said Whitman had set a precedent with the August decision.

"Well, the precedent is innocent until proven guilty. There's nothing that can change until we have a conviction," he said during a break in the meeting.

"If the person's innocent, they're innocent. That's the only rules we have to go by."

Halliday told Metro on Wednesday that the committee is different from the courts, and charges should be enough.

+ WHERE TO GIVE

The drop-off centre will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Saturday, Dec. 12 to Tuesday, Dec. 22, when it will close for Christmas. It will reopen Tuesday, Dec. 29.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

Cape Breton medical company breaking new ground

Rebecca Dingwell
For Metro | Halifax

A Nova Scotia company has been making strides in research which could help with procedures ranging from liposuction to cancer treatment.

SONA Nanotech Ltd. — based in Sydney, Cape Breton — has been experimenting on gold nanoparticles for over a year.

Gerry Marangoni is the com-

pany's CEO. He explained Thursday that the tiny gold particles have a number of potential medical uses. One can tune these particles to have some very bright colours, said Marangoni.

"Where they're useful is in a lot of medical applications if you need to do some diagnostics," he said. "You can attach molecules to them, and they will actually give you a colour that is incredibly bright."

Photothermal therapy is another use for the particles — a

treatment which kills cancer cells through heat.

"You can actually shine light on the gold nanoparticles," said Marangoni. "They have a property of heating up very dramatically. So, you can get a very rapid temperature change."

The nanoparticles had one major problem: the substance needed to make and stabilize them is harmful to body tissue, but SONA figured out a way to make the particles without this substance, known as CTAB.

"(This) is a huge breakthrough," said Marangoni.

On Friday, Marangoni will be in Halifax for the I-3 Technology Start-up Competition.

"We've got a couple opportunities to get seed investment money from the province," said Marangoni. "That's obviously very important when you're an early-stage company."

Marangoni explained more money would help out with production and would allow SONA to get more people working in the

lab. "We're really excited that we got to the finals," he said. "We're working really hard to see if we can be successful in winning in both the (Cape Breton) zone and the (Life Sciences) category."

+ BACKGROUND

SONA has another Halifax connection through its funding partner, Numus Financial.

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P3s: Pay more, get less

Nova Scotians know all too well that so-called Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) are a really bad deal for taxpayers. We end up paying more... while getting less. And yet the McNeil government is seriously considering more of them for our province.



P3 hospital to replace QEII?

Recently, Health Minister Leo Glavine told a radio show that the province is considering the P3 model to replace the aging QEII hospital complex in Halifax. He might want to take a closer look at the multi-million-dollar corruption scandal currently surrounding Montreal's new 'super hospital' — also a P3.

He should also review the policy change from the Trudeau government which says provinces are no longer required to follow Stephen Harper's old dictate that infrastructure projects looking for federal funding must consider the P3 option.

P3 toll highways

A report prepared for the Premier by one of his own deputy ministers warned against the dramatically higher costs P3s create for taxpayers. It cited the Cobequid Pass toll highway as one example of this. The report by Peter Vaughan estimates that more than \$300 million in tolls were produced by this stretch of highway, for a deal that saw private financiers put up just \$66 million. That's a return on investment of more than 350%!

And yet, in June of this year DTIR Minister Geoff MacLellan put forward a proposal for eight new toll highways across the province.

P3 schools

As each of the contracts for 39 P3 schools signed 20 years ago begin to expire next year, the province must decide whether to renew the lease, end the contract or buy the school.

Exactly how bad these deals have been for NS taxpayers, has been well documented by our own Auditor General and others. Recently, in fact, we learned that the 20-year P3 leases have already cost taxpayers \$726 million — and some of those leases don't expire until 2018!

The Liberal government now has a chance to right a historical wrong by picking up the \$230 million worth of options on the schools and bringing them back into public hands — where they belong.

How is this fiscal restraint?

The premier is preaching fiscal restraint. We keep getting told there's no money for important services, there's no money for wage increases and that we have to balance the budget.

The finance minister has asked public sector unions to help him 'identify savings.' A great place to start would be by putting an end to costly and secretive P3 contracts that end up turning hard-earned taxpayers' money into huge corporate profits.

A message from CUPE Nova Scotia, representing more than 19,000 working women and men across the province

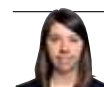
CUPE



Fellow 'honoured' to 'pay it forward'

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Francis first to be awarded new position



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Halifax students looking for advice or insight to a life in the public service can now look to a former lieutenant-governor on campus.

On Thursday, Dalhousie University announced Mayann Francis as their first Distinguished Public Service Fellow by the School of Public Administration.

"I'm honoured and I'm humbled," Francis said Thursday.

Although the 31st lieutenant-governor said with a laugh "so much for retirement," Francis said she's looking forward to delivering lectures to public administration classes, the public, and writing her memoir as part of the position.

Francis, originally from Cape Breton, began as an x-ray technician and went to various schools including Saint Mary's University, New York University for public administration, and Cornell.

She had a career of firsts as Dalhousie's first employment equity officer, director of the N.S. Human Rights Commission, first female ombudsman in N.S., and first African Nova Scotian to be lieutenant-governor.

It's "hard to believe" the new position at Dalhousie brings her full circle back to one of the first places she began her career, Francis said.



Mayann Francis is the newly named Distinguished Public Service Fellow at Dalhousie University. METRO FILE

"I just said to myself 'oh my heavens, I used to be there,'" Francis said.

"It's wonderful though, it's a great feeling."

Francis said it's important for her to "pay it forward" and share her story as a way for others to better understand

public service, whether in a formal setting or volunteer work.

"There might be something in there that resonates with somebody who says 'I can do this too,'" Francis said.

"To give them an inspiration and a reason to move forward, and to do the best at whatever it is you choose to do."

Francis will be at Dalhousie a couple days a week with office hours as well as class talks, she said, while balancing her role as the chair of the board of governors for the Atlantic School of Theology.



I would like to be able to share my journey.

Mayann Francis

INVESTIGATION

Sudden death of student due to alcohol poisoning: Police

Dalhousie University is reviewing their programs after police say a student died of alcohol poisoning last month after excessive drinking.

On Nov. 13, around 3:20 a.m. Halifax Regional Police responded to a Dalhousie residence on Lemarchant Street to assist paramedics with a medical emergency.

A 19-year-old female international student was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to a release, police said an autopsy was held the same day but the cause of death

was not immediately obvious and more testing was needed.

As a result of the testing, the medical examiner has determined that the cause of death was ethanol intoxication, or alcohol poisoning.

"We express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the young woman as well as the overall Dalhousie community," the police release said.

Police said the woman drank a "substantial amount of alcohol in a short period of time."

Foul play has also been ruled

out in the student's death.

In a letter to faculty and students, Dalhousie president Richard Florizone said student alcohol consumption is something the school takes "very seriously" and will continue to improve and enhance programs on the harms of excessive drinking.

"We will again review our programs carefully to see if there is anything that we can do differently," Florizone said.

Police said they will not release the woman's name at the request of the family.

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TITANIC MODEL OUT OF THE COLD A scale model of the Titanic is removed from its home in the Public Gardens in downtown Halifax on Thursday. The boat gets removed annually for the winter to protect it from the cold. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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RCMP probe lobster heist

CRIME

Crustaceans taken from secure island compound

RCMP in Southern Nova Scotia are investigating the theft of 1,400 pounds of lobster.

Police say the crustaceans were stolen sometime between Monday night and Tuesday morning on Morris Island, nearly 30 kilometres east of Yarmouth.

Police say an early investi-

14
The number of crates, each containing roughly 100 pounds of lobster, that were stolen from a secure compound on Morris Island.

gation into the incident determined 14 crates, each containing roughly 100 pounds of lobster, were stolen from a secure compound on the island.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV GAME SHOW

Drones wars coming

DHX Media has been commissioned to co-produce and distribute two seasons of a new series called Airmageddon, a skill-testing competition pitting remote-controlled flying drones against each other.

The series was created by Steve Carsey, who previously did Robot Wars, a game show that BBC ran from 1998 to 2004. Airmageddon will be produced in the United Kingdom.

Halifax-based DHX will broadcast the program in Canada starting in spring, through its Family CHRGD channel.

DHX will also distribute it globally. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Man faces weapons charges

A 25-year-old Dartmouth man is facing weapons charges after threatening to harm himself with a knife and later a hypodermic needle. Several cruisers responded to the 0-to-100 block of Primrose Street just before 3:50 p.m. on Wednesday. The accused

was in an apartment with another man, and a police negotiator had to convince the man to come out.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Students threatened

A 15-year-old boy will be charged for allegedly threatening violence towards fellow students

and his Kings County high school. RCMP initially received a report of social media threats suggesting violence toward Central Kings Rural High School on Wednesday. Officers arrested the boy at his Somerset home shortly after the threats were made.

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Garrison Brewing Co. owner Brian Titus packs up some boxes of the company's newest Irish Red brew at its Halifax production plant Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Tax regime stifling breweries

SMALL BUSINESS

Owners want level playing field with other producers



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Nova Scotia's craft breweries want to know why they're being taxed more than craft distillers and wineries.

"We're paying more than double what wine and craft distillers are," Emily Tipton said Thursday.

The Boxing Rock Brewing Co. owner — and Craft Brewers Association of Nova Scotia president — was referring to the remittance tax she and the other brewers pay to the NSLC when they sell products directly to customers, that is, sales at their own shops, private liquor stores, and bars.

Craft breweries pay 50 cents for every litre they sell directly.

Craft distillers and wineries pay five per cent of wholesale, translating to about 20 cents per litre.

Tipton said that means if she sells a 20-litre keg to a bar for \$100, she pays \$10 in tax. If she paid five per cent of wholesale — like distillers and wineries — that amount would drop to \$4, she said.

"That's money that's being taxed from us that we would be otherwise investing in our businesses," she said.

For Tipton, that investment would mean hiring a new employee.

For Brian Titus, owner of Garrison Brewing Co., and vice president of the provincial Craft Brewers Association, it could mean expanding his exports.

annual growth of up to 25 per cent.

"This is real stuff, it's not just artificially propped up by the government," he said.

But Titus understands "these aren't flush times."

"Everybody can put their hand out, but you need to back that up with why it's a good investment," he said.

Tipton said the NSLC has verified numbers that show changing the tax to five per cent of wholesale would cost the government \$300,000.

"That's going to be made up very quickly, and then some," Titus said. "This is a little investment in the future, and

“We’re open to possibilities, but right now the government isn’t even taking the time to have a conversation with us.”

Emily Tipton, Craft Brewers Assoc. of Nova Scotia

For a company just starting out, Titus said, "it could be life or death."

Titus has been in the craft beer industry since 1997, but he said the newer breweries are the ones who've created the explosion in the industry in the past five years, with

the future is very, very bright right now for craft breweries."

Tipton has been fighting just to get a chance to pitch this to the government since last year, and has been waiting for a meeting with finance minister Randy Delorey since October.



Brewer Jon Harris checks a batch of nut brown ale at the Garrison plant. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"I'm still waiting for that meeting, and I haven't heard anything else since," she said.

A statement from the department says the meeting

will come next year.

"We are aware of the industry's concerns and intend to meet and discuss the issue with the association in the

New Year," a spokesperson wrote in an email.

"They haven't done anything for us yet, but I'm trying to be patient," Tipton said.



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WORLD VISION

From the mouths of babes

"Welcome to Canada!"

That's the message Canadian children are sending Syrian refugees coming into the country this week in a heartwarming video released by World Vision.

"There's something so overwhelming and touching in seeing how kids respond to the idea of people being forced to flee their country," said Hugh Brewster, national manager for Canadian programs at World Vision.

In several languages — including French, Spanish, Arabic and others — the children welcome refugees their own age with messages of friendship and advice for life in their newfound, Canadian home.

"Everyone likes Canada because we have all four seasons," adds one boy, posing in front of a hockey net. "I want to be your best friends," one young girl says. "See you in school," says another.

The welcome messages were collected via email and World Vision put the video together in two days, Brewster told the Star.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Children from across Canada welcome their new Syrian neighbours. YOUTUBE



Mazan Khabbaz, centre left, a refugee from Syria, is embraced by a well-wisher as he arrives with his family at Toronto's Pearson Airport, on Wednesday. As many as 163 more Syrians lined up at the Beirut airport Thursday to board a military plane that would bring them to Canada. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada welcomes first 163 Syrian newcomers

IMMIGRATION

Liberals work with sponsors to bring 25K refugees over

With suitcases stacked on luggage carts and blue bags full of info from government agencies on top, 163 Syrians lined up at the Beirut airport Thursday to begin the long journey to Canada.

They boarded a military plane

as the vanguard of 25,000 refugees the Liberal government wants to bring to Canada by the end of February.

Photos taken by the Canadian Forces at the airport point showed a mix of men and women, teens and young children, some being offered teddy bears by Canadian officials.

The flight left Beirut to travel to Germany, where the military Airbus was to stop for refueling and a change of crew before heading on to Toronto.

All of the Syrians on board



We have great hopes for the success of this group of people that are arriving and their families as they build their new (homes) here in Canada.

Arif Virani

Thursday are being sponsored by private groups, many of whom had filed the paperwork months ago in order to bring in some of the estimated 4.3 million Syrians displaced by the ongoing civil war in that country.

But the sponsors will have to wait a while longer before they personally greet the new arrivals. The first Canadians the Syrians will meet upon landing at Toronto's Pearson airport will range from, perhaps, the prime

minister, to a team of civil servants and border officers who will complete the final pieces of paperwork required.

From there, 116 will head to new homes in the Toronto area. Another four will go to Windsor, Ont. Sponsors in Kelowna, B.C., will welcome four, three will go to Coquitlam, B.C., and one to New Westminster, B.C. Twenty are bound for Calgary, Alta., and the final 15 to Edmonton, according to statistics released by the Immigration department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RESPONSE

Muhammad Ali backs Islam

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali criticized Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump's proposal to ban Muslims from entering the United States, calling on Muslims "to stand up to those who use Islam to advance their own personal agenda."

Ali, one of the most famous Muslims in the world, issued a statement saying, "True Muslims know that the ruthless violence of so-called Islamic Jihadists goes against the very tenets of our religion."

He added, "I believe that our political leaders should use their position to bring under-



Boxing great Muhammad Ali.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

standing about the religion of Islam and clarify that these misguided murderers have per-

verted people's views on what Islam really is."

Ali's statement Wednesday was directed at "presidential candidates proposing to ban Muslim immigration to the United States."

"They have alienated many from learning about Islam," Ali wrote.

U.S. President Barack Obama, in an address to the nation Sunday, called on Americans to reject discrimination, saying, "Muslim Americans are our friends and our neighbours, our co-workers, our sports heroes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FACEBOOK

Zuckerberg offers support to those who fear bad reaction

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is offering words of support for Muslims who fear retaliation for the recent violent attacks by Islamic extremists in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif.

In the wake of those attacks, Zuckerberg wrote on his personal Facebook page Wednesday that he wants to assure

Muslims they are welcome on Facebook and that "we will fight to protect your rights and create a peaceful and safe environment for you."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has proposed barring all Muslims from entering the United States. Other political leaders have

condemned Trump's proposal as discriminatory.

Zuckerberg did not refer specifically to any proposal, but the co-founder of the world's biggest social network said, "As a Jew, my parents taught me that we must stand up against attacks on all communities."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks in Columbus, Ohio. He has said he shelved a trip to Israel in order to not pressure President Benjamin Netanyahu. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Trump postpones journey to Israel

UNITED STATES

Candidate says he'll make trip 'after I become president'

Republican Donald Trump has scrapped a planned trip to Israel, saying he will reschedule "at a later date after I become President of the U.S."

Trump tweeted Thursday that he is postponing the trip, which had become problematic for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Viewed as a Republican Party supporter, Netanyahu's position became risky after Trump called for keeping Muslims from entering the U.S. and making controversial comments to a Jewish group.

Trump told Fox News there were many reasons he decided

to hold off on a trip, among them that he didn't want to put Netanyahu in a bind.

"You know, he said, 'We have a meeting,' and he looks forward to the meeting and all of that," Trump said. "But I didn't want to put him under pressure, No. 1. I also did it because I'm in the midst of a very powerful campaign that's going very well and it was not that easy to do. So I would say lots of different reasons."

Trump has the Republican party in turmoil over his call

Netanyahu's office had said in a statement issued Wednesday he rejects Trump's comments about Muslims but planned to move forward with the meeting with Trump.

The Republican presidential candidate, who has maintained a wide lead in most early polling, sparked criticism among many American Jews last week after speaking to a gathering of Jewish donors. He was booed after refusing to endorse Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. The U.S., like most of



I'm in the midst of a very powerful campaign that's going very well. Donald Trump

for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S. following last week's mass shooting by an Islamic militant couple that killed 14 people in San Bernardino, Calif.

the international community, refuses to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and says the city's status must be resolved in talks between Israel and the Palestinians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKLASH

Fears of harassment against Muslims across U.S. increase

A severed pig's head was left outside a mosque in Philadelphia. An Islamic centre in Florida was defaced. A Sikh temple in California was vandalized by someone who mistook it for a mosque and left graffiti that included a profane reference to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militant group.

Advocacy groups believe a spate of anti-Muslim incidents across the U.S. in recent weeks can be linked to last week's mass shooting in California

and the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump and other Republican presidential candidates. And they say Muslims are fearful the backlash could lead to further harassment and violence.

"I have never seen such fear and apprehension in the Muslim community, even after 9/11," Ibrahim Hooper, lead spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ INCIDENTS

Problem hard to measure

It's tough to measure the extent of the problem or to know for sure if there has been an increase in anti-Muslim incidents or if people are simply paying closer attention to a small but steady stream of episodes throughout the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dolls seized at Haifa Port

ISRAEL

Considered incitement of hate: Officials

About 4,000 dolls — wearing traditional Palestinian scarves and holding cloth rocks — were seized last week by Israeli authorities, who say they were destined for the West Bank.

Ram Alfia, of the Israel Tax Authority in Jerusalem, which oversees customs, said the dolls were discovered at the Haifa port. They were in two containers from the United Arab Emirates that were supposed to be carrying carpets, clothing and plastic products.

The dolls wore light brown pants and white T-shirts. The bottoms of the checkered scarves, known as kaffiyehs, were red, green, white and black, the colours of the Palestinian flag. In one raised arm, each plush toy held a small grey rock.

Two Arabic phrases — roughly translated as “Jerusalem for us” and “Jerusalem, here we come” — were written on the kaffiyehs.

Alfia said it was not immedi-



Some of the 4,000 dolls seized on a shipment bound for Palestinian stores. The Israeli customs authority said in a statement that the cargo of dolls was meant to “incite against Israel.” There were dolls in the colours of the Palestinian flag and bearing the slogans “Jerusalem is for us” and “Jerusalem we are coming.” AFP PHOTO/HO/HAIFA CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

ately known for whom the dolls were intended.

The dolls were not declared, Alfia said, but would not have been allowed to continue on their journey regardless because they were considered an incitement of hate.

In a video statement, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said the dolls are “being used to poison the minds of the young children in the Palestinian Authority.”

Stone-throwing came to prominence during the first Pal-

estinian uprising of 1987, when it was regarded by many Palestinians as a tactic embodying both symbolic and strategic intent. Used against heavily armed Israeli soldiers, flying rocks were seldom lethal — yet the volleys were seen by some observers

as a means of attempting to reverse a biblical narrative for foreign eyes, casting Palestinians as David against Israel’s Goliath.

In the latest surge of violence this fall, at least 109 Palestinians and 19 Israelis have been killed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TURKEY

Smugglers accused in case of boy on beach

Turkey’s state-run news agency says prosecutors are seeking 35-year prison terms for two suspected human-smugglers held responsible for the drowning of the 3-year-old Syrian migrant boy, whose images helped focus the world’s attention on the Syrian refugee crisis.

The Anadolu Agency says the prosecutor’s office in the resort of Bodrum on Thursday accused the two Syrians of “deliberate negligence” and of migrant trafficking. Authorities were still trying to identify six other suspected smugglers.

Photos of Alan Kurdi, who washed up dead on the beach in Bodrum in September, galvanized global sympathy for the refugees, leading some countries to ease restrictions on accepting migrants.

Alan, his brother and mother drowned when their boat capsized on the way to the Greek island of Kos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IRAQ

ISIL move traps its own men

Besieged ISIL militants in the Iraqi city of Ramadi destroyed a lock on the Euphrates River that served as a bridge as government forces on Thursday sought to cement their gains around the militant-held city west of Baghdad.

Since Iraq’s military launched its push on Ramadi earlier this month, the militants have destroyed all other bridges leading into the city, both on the Euphrates and its tributary, the Warar River.

Iraqi Maj Gen. Ismail al-Mahlawi, the head of military operations in the western Anbar province, said the lock destroyed Thursday was the last remaining bridge from the city centre to the northwest.

The locks’ destruction leaves some 300 ISIL fighters trapped in the centre of the city, he added. Col. Steven Warren, the spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad, said the destruction of the bridge may prove to be a tactical mistake for ISIL.

“What they’ve also done now is they’ve really cut themselves off,” he said. “So the fighters left on the north side of the river can’t retreat and the fighters on the south side of the river can’t send reinforcements.”

Muhammad Haimour, the spokesman for the Anbar gov-



Iraqi security forces take combat positions on the front line in Ramadi, capital of Iraq’s Anbar province. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ernor’s office, said he received reports from residents still inside Ramadi that IS was also destroying buildings and radio towers.

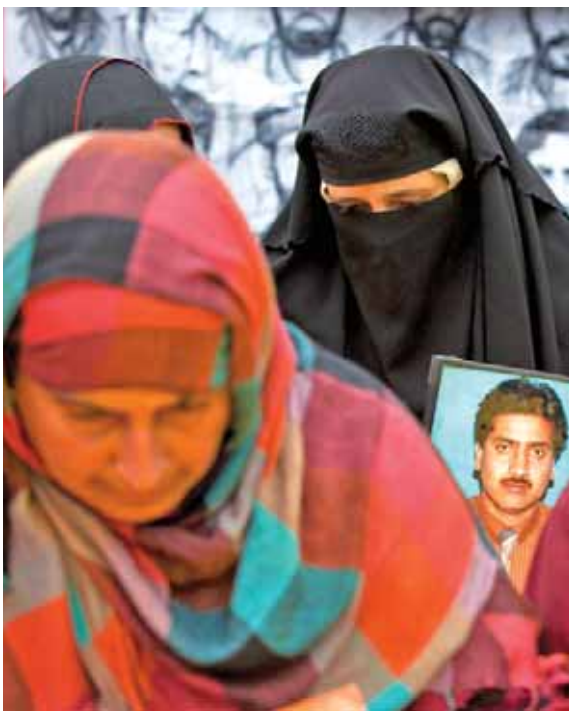
“We’ve seen this before; they tend to blow up not just bridges, but a lot of infrastructure inside the city,” Haimour said.

Haimour added that according to reports he received, about two months ago ISIL fighters began moving their families out of Ramadi and toward the town of Hit northwest of Ramadi. That, he said is when he believes the tide began to turn against the ISIL group in the Anbar provincial capital.

A key factor that changed the sluggish pace of the battle for Ramadi, Haimour said, was a decision by the central government in Baghdad to arm Sunni tribal fighters from the Ramadi area to fight against ISIL. Now, there are 8,500 members from Anbar mobilized, trained, armed and receiving salaries.

ISIL captured Ramadi in May. Iraqi forces, backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, pushed into Ramadi earlier this week, capturing a military complex north of the city and a neighbourhood on its outskirts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE MISSING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTEST Relatives of people who have gone missing sit at a protest to mark International Human Rights Day in Srinagar, India, Thursday. According to Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), more than 8,000 are untraceable since the beginning of the Kashmir conflict in 1989, after being arrested by Indian security forces and other security agencies. **DAR YASIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Saudi blogger imprisoned

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Canada and family aiming for his release

Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, who was sentenced to receive 1,000 lashes for his liberal writings, has started a hunger strike after being transferred to a remote prison, his wife has announced.

In a post on her Facebook page, Ensaf Haidar said that her husband's hopes of a pardon have been dashed because Shabbat Central Prison, where he was taken Thursday, is reserved for those prisoners who have received a final verdict.

"We are very alarmed at the prison administration decision to transfer my husband to the Shabbat Central and fear it may lead to the resumption of his flogging," wrote Haidar, who lives with the couple's three kids in Sherbrooke, Que.

"We hold the prison administration responsible for any harm that Raif may suffer."

Badawi's supporters have been pushing for a review of his case, buoyed by Quebec's offer of an immigration certificate in June and word from the Saudi supreme court that it was reviewing his case.



Ensaf Haidar, wife of blogger Raif Badawi.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last month, Swiss Foreign Minister Yves Rossier announced that negotiations for Badawi's pardon were in the works.

Badawi, the founder of a Saudi liberal blog, was arrested in 2012 and sentenced to 1,000 lashes, 10 years in prison and a fine of more than \$325,000 for insulting religious authorities. Badawi received the first 50 lashes on Jan. 9 in Jeddah.

A collection of Badawi's writings, 1,000 Lashes, has been published in Quebec and in October, the European Union awarded him the prestigious Sakharov Prize for human rights.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UNITED STATES

Shelters for immigrant children planned

Federal officials plan to open three shelters in Texas and California to accommodate up to 1,400 unaccompanied immigrant children as the number of people crossing from Mexico into the United States continues to rise.

After a decline in crossings following last year's surge of children entering the United States, border crossings rose again this summer. In October and November, 10,588 un-

accompanied children have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, according to the federal Border Patrol. That's more than double the number for October and November last year.

The increase led the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand the number of beds it has for children, the agency said in a statement Thursday. The agency said it was acting "out of an abundance of caution."


The number of families crossing the border also has gone up significantly. Figures released last month for October indicated the number of family members crossing together tripled compared to October 2014, from about 2,100 to more than 6,000.

Two Texas facilities to take in children are the Sabine Creek Ranch in Rockwall County and the Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center in Ellis County.

Both are located in rural areas just outside Dallas.

Rockwall County Judge David Sweet, the county's top administrator, said in an interview Thursday his county to take in 300 children, all from Central America.

"It goes without saying that we're very sensitive (to) the plight of unaccompanied children," Sweet said. But, he added, public safety "has to be my No. 1." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

Investments spook millennials: Poll

A new poll suggests that two-thirds of millennials are investing their money, but that most feel they don't have adequate knowledge for the task.

The poll done for CIBC found 67 per cent of Canadians aged 18 to 34 reported having investments including stocks, GICs, bonds and mutual funds.

However, 82 per cent said they didn't know enough about investing.

Meanwhile, the one-third of respondents who said they did not have any investments cited lack of financial knowledge and the fact that investing "intimidates" them as major reasons.

Not having any money to invest and other financial prior-

ities were also cited as reasons for not investing.

Of those who do invest, 41 per cent said they don't get the returns they expect, while 28 per cent found it hard to develop a long-term strategy.

Sarah Widmeyer, head of wealth advisory services at CIBC, says while it's good to see millennials recognize the importance of investing, they need help.

"Their lack of knowledge is making them vulnerable to many common investing mistakes," Widmeyer says.

The online survey done between Nov. 24 and Dec. 8 included 1,004 Canadians ages 18-34. THE CANADIAN PRESS

82%

The percentage of millennials who said they didn't know enough about investing.

IN BRIEF

El Niño threatening Canada's maple output

A late spring caused Canada's maple syrup production to fall for the second consecutive year in 2015 — and warmer El Niño weather is threatening to put a dent in next spring's output as well.

The impact would hit Quebec, the world's dominant maple syrup producer, along with Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and syrup-producing American states like Vermont and New York.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute



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GOLD

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NATURAL GAS: \$2.015 US (-4.7¢)

DOW JONES: 17,574.75 (+82.45)

Walmart steps into mobile payment war

TECHNOLOGY

Retailer going up against Apple, Google and Samsung

Walmart, the world's largest retailer, said it's launching its own mobile payment system that will allow shoppers to pay with any major credit or debit card or its own store gift card through its existing smartphone app at the cash register.

It started testing the new payment feature Thursday at its stores in the Bentonville, Arkansas area, where the retailer is based. It plans to launch the payment system called Walmart Pay in all 4,500-plus U.S. stores early next year.

It's part of Walmart's overall mobile strategy to making shopping easier and faster, but the launch is the latest salvo in the battle for mobile payments that's in the early stages. Walmart has moved into the field as Apple's one-year-old tap-and-pay system is being expanded to other merchants like Best Buy and KFC, and several months after Google launched the Android Pay mobile wallet app and Samsung came out with Samsung Pay. They're all trying to get a piece of what could be a very lucrative business, but none of them have cracked the market so far.



Walmart has begun testing its own mobile payment system that will allow shoppers to pay with any major credit or debit card or its own store gift card at the cash register. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The move signals that Walmart believes it's best to build its own system. "We are creating a seamless shopping experience that includes payment," Neil Ashe, president and CEO of Walmart's global eCommerce, told reporters. "It's fast. It's simple, and it's a secure way for customers to use their smartphone."

Walmart executives said that after evaluating various mobile options, they found that they had different constraints, working only on cer-

It's fast. It's simple, and it's a secure way for customers to use their smartphone.

Neil Ashe

tain devices or payment types. Apple Pay requires iPhones. But Google's own tap-and-pay services, Android Pay and Sam-

sung's Samsung Pay require Android phones.

Walmart's move could be a blow to Merchant Customer Exchange, or MCX, set up a few years ago by a consortium of retailers and restaurants to create an industrywide mobile payment system. Walmart has been a key player.

But Walmart executives told reporters they remain excited about the MCX pilot program for the payment system called "CurrentC."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DEENA DOUARA KARIM: ON TRUMP'S DANGEROUS WORDS

There is no need to reassure me Trump will not win the presidency ... Trump is no lone loon — he has support and admiration



You know how I feel about Donald Trump.

I'm a Muslim and an American, and you know how I feel about Trump.

I sat in the newsroom as he made his comments about banning Muslims from coming into the U.S. Someone referenced Hitler, it was slotted for a news page (in Toronto, a brief), and we all went about our work.

Meanwhile, I stared at the screen. Is it naïve to continue to feel disbelief when every outrageous statement is only incrementally more horrid than the one before?

I'm weary of trying to convince people of things. That Islamophobia is prevalent and experienced by people I love. Or that what's happening today has little to do with religion.

Instead, I'll tell you how it feels to hear Trump — a front-running candidate to lead the world's most powerful country — say he wants a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States." How it feels to hear supporters say "send them all back."

You know how I feel, but I hope you'll still hear me say it.

It feels like anger. Anger at the lies Trump knowingly spews that leave Muslims as casualties in very real ways, at home and abroad. Anger at



Dark times. Donald Trump's message is designed to provoke, but it provokes pain for many who deserve better from America, Deena Douara Karim writes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the blatantly false information that will shape how Americans — and Canadians, too — view their coworkers and their neighbours. "I watched thousands and thousands of people cheering," he says, of reactions to 9/11 in New Jersey — a claim supported by nothing and no one. Suggestions — a Muslim registry, ID cards — that push the boundaries of what can be thought and vocalized. And anger at the muted response. Calls here and there to remove his name from a building, snickers, headlines, to be sure. But visceral outrage? For words that so closely parallel Hitler for a population with still-living links? I have to turn to Facebook for that.

It feels like sadness. Like a friend, who was a refugee, hearing "ship them all back" from a Trump supporter. Would they send her family back, whatever the horror "back" represents? "I don't want them here," they say. "They need to go." Sadness because I suspect I have school friends who would now nod their heads, agreeing their families really would be safer this way. With sadness I recall the humour and generosity of Syrians I met years ago — the young hostel owners who shared their food, the man who talked about films as I

bought cloth from him. Sad to hear them now compared to "rabid dogs," by another candidate, Ben Carson, and know they would have showered him with the same kindness.

It feels like fear. Not fear I'll be patching crescents onto my coats anytime soon, but I do fear for the soul of the country I grew up in. What are we capable of when Trump calls waterboarding "peanuts"? Fear that people selling "anti-jihad" rifles who distribute Qur'ans for target practice will move into the mainstream, acknowledged and accepted in this "anti-political-correctness" ethos.

It feels like worry. Like hearing friends select baby names based on their sounding not-too-Muslimy. Worry for how refugees — from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq — will be received and what future awaits them when many in the world's wealthiest nation see them as ticking time bombs.

It feels like bafflement. How the very people who accept thousands of casualties from guns will take all measures to brace against a single death by "Muslim." Gun-rights principles above all, but no principles that stand by people like me.

It feels like frustration. Hearing experts agree that

inflammatory rhetoric leads to greater isolation and radicalization in dark and vulnerable corners at home, and emboldens groups like ISIL abroad, meaning that Trump and his compatriots help create the world they purport to combat. Frustration because high-profile comments gives people permission to express their nastiest inclinations. Frustration with the lack of transparency around mass killings when they are perpetrated by Muslims — who always wind up dead, and who always inspire alternate stories, "conspiracy theories," difficult to ignore.

There is no need to reassure me Trump will not win the presidency, or that a registry system would never pass. It does not matter. Trump is no lone loon — he has support and admiration; has other candidates seething that he's captured the hate vote.

The statements that evoke these feelings are harmful, now. They have repercussions, now. And they change the America that I grew up in, now.

Deena Douara Karim is a journalist and photographer. She tweets at @Deena_Do.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



For a joyful New Year's prediction, just talk to Tomson Highway

Tomson Highway's aura is infectious. His grin. His self-described "spectacular joy."

"I have a mental condition that is worsening as I get older. It's called ridiculousness," he says right after we meet, looking thoroughly pleased. For the next 10 minutes every answer contains a punchline.

"Shall we disrobe?" he asks playfully, taking off his oversized track jacket. He wears square glasses and a black turtleneck that he pushes up over his ears as we talk.

The acclaimed playwright novelist and pianist is in Toronto for a cabaret retrospective of his work, *Songs In The Key of Cree*, on Sunday. Highway, a classically trained pianist, has been writing songs for 14 years, the kind that, at a recent run in Saskatoon, garner standing ovations so great even "people in wheelchairs leaped from their wheelchairs!"

"Language is music," he says — one of his oft-repeated lines, and notes I've been laughing in 4/4 time.

Highway speaks Cree, French and English among others, and travels extensively "for the beautiful people" and the languages.

He's called himself a linguistic activist, and argues each language contains "a secret to the functioning of the human organism." Learning a new tongue offers insight, he says, and that chance to truly listen.

I ask him about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who

won praise this week for his new attitude to indigenous Canadians.

"Yes, he's opening his mind and his heart, and he's listening," says Highway. Compared to Stephen Harper, who had a "heart of ice" and spoke only of the economy, Trudeau is "talking about human issues, issues that matter to humanity. That means there's room for change," he says.

And Highway sees Canada's Aboriginal Peoples on the precipice of great change. He believes pain and trauma are the birthplace of beauty and creativity. From manure, as he puts it, comes vegetation.

"I think we're on the verge of something extraordinary as native people. Collectively as a nation, we have suffered a certain kind of trauma, which brings us to the threshold of extraordinary achievement. That's what I'm here to help with, to help open to the door to extraordinary achievement, and I think it's going to be spectacular."

I tell him that's the best prediction for the New Year I've ever heard.

Highway — who speaks far too quickly for note-taking — seems like he could philosophize like this forever, but nothing serious can ward off his humour. He makes a joke about flattery and flatulence as we shake hands goodbye.

"Every moment of every day should be an act of joy," he says. "I dance down the street."

It feels like fear. Not fear I'll be patching crescents onto my coats anytime soon, but I do fear for the soul of the country I grew up in.

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A whale of a tale... hold the fat



Chris Hemsworth isn't the only actor to change his weight for a role, but the practice can take its toll on the body. HANDOUT

IN THE HEART OF THE SEA

Hemsworth lost 33 pounds to play sailor

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



In the Heart of the Sea features less of Chris Hemsworth than we've seen on screen before. He's in virtually every scene, but for much of the film the usually bulked up Thor star is set adrift in a raft, starving and physically much less imposing than usual.

The movie is an old-fashioned whale of a tale. Literally.

Based on the true story said to have inspired Moby Dick, it's

about whalers battling not only repeated assaults from the one whale who fought back, but also malnourishment and dehydration.

At sea for three months in tiny whaleboats the men are pushed to the edge of sanity, taking drastic steps to survive.

To convincingly play a starving sailor Hemsworth trimmed 33 pounds off his already toned 6'2 3/4" frame.

"My crazy diet would make you pass out from exhaustion," he said. At certain points he was eating just 500 or 600 calories — that's less than a combo lunch meal at most fast-food places — in the form of a boiled egg, two crackers and a celery stick a day.

Hemsworth and his underfed cast mates passed away the time with conversations "about our



MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

In the Heart of the Sea ★★★
The Danish Girl ★★★
Carol ★★★★
Youth ★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

favourite foods and what we would eat when we finished the film."

The actor says losing that amount of weight isn't something he'd like to do again, but adds, "by those final sequences when we were supposed to be exhausted and emotional. We were feeling that way off screen too, so it helped."

Dramatic weight loss isn't new — actors have been yo-yo dieting for roles for years — but

doctors say rapid body mass reduction can lead to malnutrition, maladies like gallstones and worse. In other words, as Christian Bale who dumped 60 pounds for his role in The Machinist says, "It ain't great for your health."

Still, actors take on dramatic diets to aid in their dramatic work. Anne Hathaway dropped 25 pounds by food deprivation and exercise to make Les Misérables while Matthew Mc-

Conaughey survived eating only Diet Coke, egg whites and a piece of chicken a day to play AIDS patient Ron Woodroof in Dallas Buyers Club. According to The Playlist he stopped dieting when "people stopped asking if he was all right and started suggesting he seek help."

Just as common are actors who gain weight. Russell Crowe gained 63 pounds to play a CIA bigwig in Body of Lies, George Clooney gained 35 pounds for Syriana and Renee Zellweger gained 30 pounds for Bridget Jones's Diary, lost it, only to regain it for the sequel.

Jared Leto who lost 40 pounds to play Rayon in Dallas Buyer's Club, gained 67 pounds for the film Chapter 27 by drinking melted pints of chocolate Haagen Dazs ice cream mixed with

olive oil and soy sauce "to get me bloated even more."

Why do actors alter their bodies? Some call it dedication while cynics suggest it's an easy Oscar. Physical transformations (plus acting talent) brought Robert DeNiro, Charlize Theron and McConaughey to the winner's circle.

But some actors have sworn off manipulating their weight. Jim Carrey turned down a role in the Three Stooges biopic that would have required him to gain 40 to 50 pounds and Tom Hanks blames gaining and losing weight for roles with him developing Type 2 diabetes.

"I've talked to a number of actors who have gained weight for roles and — just out of the sheer physical toll on one's knees and shoulders — no-one wants to do it again," he told the BBC.

Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

TOP SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

- 6 Ariana Grande Focus
- 5 Daya Hideaway
- 4 Shawn Mendes ft Camila Cabello I Know What You Did Last Summer
- 3 Justin Bieber Sorry
- 2 Adele Hello
- 1 Classified ft Snoop Dogg No Pressure

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW: TOM CRUISE?



In his prime, Tom Cruise was the ultimate in cool: one of the biggest heartthrobs in Hollywood who helped a certain sunglasses company sell millions of pairs just by wearing them... and wearing them well. That's carried him through an amazing four decades of success. From his breakout performance in the 1980s dark comedy *Risky Business* (playing this month on Hollywood Suite) to more recent turns in thrillers like the *Mission: Impossible* series, Cruise has had an unparalleled run of box office hits over the years.

Take a look back at Tom Cruise during his rise to fame with some facts that might surprise you:

- Cruise and his family lived in Ottawa from 1971 to 1974 (where he attended the same school as Bryan Adams!). His dad — an engineer — was working for the Canadian military at the time.
- The iconic *Risky Business* underwear dance scene was improvised — the script said only, "Joel dances in underwear through the house."
- Cruise earned his pilot's license in Markham, Ontario, during the filming of *Top Gun* — a movie for which he also learned to ride a motorcycle.
- Cruise was almost cast to play Kevin Bacon's part in *Footloose* (1984), but had to back out because of scheduling conflicts.
- He was the first actor to star in both the Oscar winner for Best Picture, *Rain Man* (1988) and the Razzie "winner" for Worst Picture, *Cocktail* (1988), in the same year.
- The Disney character Aladdin (1992) was modelled on Tom Cruise's good looks.

Rediscover Tom Cruise's rise to Hollywood powerhouse through the '80s and '90s. Starting Dec. 8 and running until Jan. 12, Hollywood Suite is offering a free preview of uncut and commercial-free movies that shaped the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s. Available on television service providers across the country, this free preview includes access to Hollywood Suite On Demand, where available. Featured films include *Risky Business* and such Cruise classics as *Days of Thunder* (1990), *A Few Good Men* (1992), *The Firm* (1993), and *Mission: Impossible* (1996).

HOLLYWOODSUITE



THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



Director Ron Howard's *In the Heart of the Sea* is the latest reimagining of the 1820 sinking of the American whaling ship *Essex*. After a sperm whale attack destroyed their vessel, 20 sailors were shipwrecked at sea thousands of miles off the coast of South America. Only eight men survived, partly on account of cannibalizing those who didn't.

Chris Hemsworth plays Owen Chase, the *Essex*'s first mate who wrote a book in 1821 about the ship's horrifying final voyage. That book provided inspiration for Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* in 1851. Meanwhile, Nathaniel Philbrick read both Chase and Melville and published *In the Heart of the Sea* in 2000, which Howard has now turned into a movie, which you can see starting Friday.

"Don't you remember how terrifying it was?" Simon recently asked of Philbrick's acclaimed best-seller. "I think it's the only book that gave me actual nightmares."

"I read it?"

"We both read it," he re-

"I think *In the Heart of the Sea* is the only book that gave me actual nightmares"

THE MOVIE:
In the Heart of the Sea



THE MEAL:
Cod au gratin



minded me, "in Newfoundland."

That was 10 years ago. I had planned for months to go live by myself in a tiny outpost called Grand Bruit, where my dad owned a house. Although I'd never published a single word, I was going to write a novel. A few months before I left Toronto I made another leviathan leap: although we'd only been dating for about eight months, I asked Simon to come with me.

Imagine this: no cars, no roads, a general store, a church, a school, which two 12-year-olds attended, and some 30 permanent residents. We arrived in autumn and stayed through the winter. When we ice-skated on the endless network of frozen ponds nestled high up in the tuckamore-covered hills, it felt like we lived in a snow globe. Everywhere we looked — towards the

ocean, the mountains, the cheerfully coloured saltbox houses — was picture-perfect. If only Instagram had existed.

And we read. The book that I most associate with Grand Bruit is *Moby-Dick*. I don't think that's entirely on account of it being the great American novel. It was the time — I was just about to turn 30 — and the place: sitting at night in front of the old Franklin stove with the wind whipping so fiercely outside that it felt like the house — which, coincidentally, reminded me of a ship's hull — would blow down.

We also ate: chow chow and copper pennies, partridgeberry pudding and bakeapple cheesecake, cod tongue, boiled vegetables flavoured with salt pork, salt cod flavoured with salt pork, and, my favourite, cod au gratin.

On Sunday night I pulled

out my well-worn copy of *What's Cooking in Grand Bruit*, a collection of recipes compiled by the United Church women's association. There on page 25 was a cod au gratin recipe: make a roux of butter, flour and milk; add onion; pour over fresh cod fillets; top with bread crumbs and grated Cheddar cheese; bake.

It was so simple to make — and satisfying — that I wondered why I haven't made it more often. Maybe because my cod au gratin will never be as memorable as the fine people who made it for us, and cared for us, all those years ago.

And the novel I was supposed to write? In those six glorious months I wrote 12 pages. But boy, did I live.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Matt Damon to speak at MIT where he once played a janitor

Matt Damon shot to fame in the 1997 movie *Good Will Hunting* as a gifted janitor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Now, he has been selected to deliver the university's 2016 commencement address.

MIT announced Thursday that the Academy Award-winning actor, filmmaker, social activist and Cambridge native will address graduates on June 3.

Damon said in a statement that it's an

honour to be named commencement speaker "at a school that I couldn't have gotten into."

MIT President L. Rafael Reif says Damon has "made us think about our world in new ways, and through his service, he has made it a better place." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Matt Damon
GETTY IMAGES

Michelle Obama and Jay Pharoah of SNL rap a 'go to college' video

America is seeing a new side of Michelle Obama, this time as rap artist.

The first lady and "Saturday Night Live" actor Jay Pharoah rhyme on a new video to encourage students to "go to college" and "fill your head with knowledge."

She also sings a brief solo about her Chicago hometown, with body movements and facial expressions like professional rappers.

The video is part of Mrs. Obama's new Better Make Room campaign to pro-

ON COLLEGE HUMOR SITE
The video is part of Mrs. Obama's new Better Make Room campaign to provide teens with the resources they need to pursue higher education.

vide teens with the resources they need to pursue higher education.

The campaign is part of a broader initiative by the first lady to encourage students to continue their education after high school.

The comedy website College Humor released the brief video Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Hemsworth and Charlotte Riley in the action adventure *In the Heart of the Sea*. CONTRIBUTED

Inside the heart of Chris Hemsworth

INTERVIEW

Actor talks fame, Thor and working with Ron Howard

Hosting Saturday Night Live earlier this year, Chris Hemsworth exaggerated his swift ascent in Hollywood: "If a jacked Australian with a perfect face can make it, anyone can," he said in a mock American Express ad.

Hemsworth, the 32-year-old Australian actor known the world over as Thor, appears as if perfectly chiseled out of movie star granite. But whatever his considerable natural gifts, Hemsworth has proven an interesting actor inclined to use his powerful screen presence in roles that both exalt it and upend it.

In *In the Heart of the Sea*, which opens Friday, he reteams with Ron Howard, who directed him in *Rush*, the 2013 movie that yielded Hemsworth's most confident starring performance as the Formula One driver James Hunt.

In *Heart of the Sea*, a re-counting of the plight of the Essex (the cursed whaling ship that inspired Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*), Hemsworth plays the swashbuckling first mate. Shipwrecked by a mammoth sperm whale, Hemsworth's heroic seaman is humbled, left

a gaunt survivor.

It's the kind of duality that defines Hemsworth: a hunk but a family man (he has three kids); an Avengers superhero but a talented comic actor. Along with his shirtless cameo in *Vacation* and playing the receptionist in the upcoming *Ghostbusters*, he hosts SNL again on Saturday.

In a recent interview, Hemsworth discussed his new film, the box-office disappointment *Blackhat* and the stresses of being a Norse god.

Do you ever feel any pressure to live up to Thor?

You feel like you've tricked everyone successfully. I never felt big enough playing Thor. ... people talk about you like you're nine-foot tall and 800 pounds. I'm well aware of the illusion. There's not a second where I go: Yeah, I'm a god.

The best scene of Thor must have been when Thor tries coffee for the first time, slams it on the floor and demands another.

It's funny, that's probably closer to me than the serious, gladiatorial-type Thor. I'd rather have fun with it. It comes easier. When doing Thor, those scenes where he (lowers voice) spoke like this and everything was grand and big, people thought: That's what he is. Saturday Night Live and *Vacation*,

as well, are good opportunities to go: Actually it's not.

What was your experience on Michael Mann's cyber-crime thriller *Blackhat*, which some critics defended but which flopped at the box office?

Really hard, actually. I love Michael and it was great. But I do wish I had done more of what I truly wanted to do. I remember being so in awe of him that I said I would just do anything he said, regardless of whether I agreed with it. And that's a real danger because someone hires you because they want to you bring what you're going to bring to the table ... So I don't feel like it was my performance so much. And that wasn't the fault of Michael Mann.

You and Howard, however, seem to be a good team.

I can't speak for him but for me (*Rush*) was the first time I felt I was truly in an environment where I could just take risks and explore. Something felt sort of pure about that experience. And it was probably the role, too, something I directly related to or liked about that character. Full of insecurity and fear but also cockiness and overconfidence. It was all these contradictory things.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OXFORD

Daisy Ridley is not giving away anything

INTERVIEW

Actress talks Star Wars, keeps movie's secrets

Daisy Ridley may not be as brave as her character in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, but she's close.

In her first-ever film role, the 23-year-old British-born actress plays Rey, a pilot and scavenger at the centre of the action in the hugely anticipated Episode VII.

The hardest thing about the job, Ridley said, was overcoming her own fears.

"It's one thing for other people to see potential in you and it's quite another for you to understand that and see it in yourself," she said.

"So of course everyone else being wonderful helps, but there's a certain level of growth... you have to do as a person... It's just like life times a million."

Right now, that life is a sniffly one that includes lots of airplanes and interviews.

The film's nonstop promotional schedule has left Ridley with a cold that has her wrapped in a winter coat on a recent warm Southern California day.

But even illness doesn't weaken her resolve when it comes to keeping the film's hotly guarded secrets.

Though co-star Harrison Ford has said Rey wields a lightsaber in the film, Ridley deflected the



Daisy Ridley plays Rey in The Force Awakens. HANDOUT

question when asked directly.

"Finn and Kylo have a fight with a lightsaber," is all she would say, referring to co-stars John Boyega and Adam Driver, whose tussle has already been shown in the film's trailers.

The actress did undergo

months of physical training to prepare for her role, a regimen that included weightlifting, climbing and "staff training" — footage shows Rey running and fighting with a staff.

How much different could a lightsaber be?

"I had to look like I could look after myself in the desert and drag and scavenging things across sand," she said.

The youngest of five, Ridley appeared in small roles in medical and crime television dramas in the U.K. before capturing director J.J. Abrams' attention in her audition for The Force Awakens.

The film's set transported Ridley to the Star Wars world, where Abrams and the cast helped allay an initial feeling she describes as "terror."

"Luckily, to have J.J. there, who is so kind and considerate and encouraging, and to have a crew of people who made me feel safe and not rushed and not pressured, that is precisely what took the pressure off."

So did bonding with Boyega. The two would sing songs from The Lion King before shooting their scenes and explored the markets of Abu Dhabi on their one shared day off.

"We got on so well," Ridley said.

"It was so much fun all the time, and to have him with me through this whole thing, both in filming and afterward, has been incredible."

One thing the actress isn't prepared for is the level of fame she's likely to experience. She tries not to think about it.

"The fame side of things is a weird twist that I'm not kind of interested in," she said.

"If I was going to be recognized for anything, Star Wars is all right." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now playing



DRAMA

In The Heart of the Sea

Director: Ron Howard
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker

In the winter of 1820, the New England whaling ship Essex was assaulted by something no one could believe: a whale of mammoth size and will. The real-life disaster would inspire Herman Melville's Moby-Dick.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:

60% 70%

COMEDY

Don Verdean

Director: Jared Hess
Starring: Sam Rockwell, Amy Ryan

Hired by an ambitious small-town pastor to find sacred relics in the Holy Land, a self-proclaimed Biblical archaeologist comes up short and his attempt to cover up his failure fuels a comic conspiracy from the filmmaking team behind Napoleon Dynamite.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:

50% 40%



DRAMA

Brooklyn

Director: John Crowley
Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson

Eilis Lacey is a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, Eilis departs Ireland and the comfort of her mother's home for the shores of New York City. Homesickness quickly diminishes as a fresh romance sweeps up Eilis.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:

98% +97%

ANIMATION

The Good Dinosaur

Director: Peter Sohn
Starring: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright

What if the cataclysmic asteroid that forever changed life on Earth actually missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct?

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:

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Alicia Vikander was nominated for a Golden Globe award for best actress in a motion picture drama for her role in *The Danish Girl*. FOCUS FEATURES VIA AP

Learning to let go

INTERVIEW

Vikander talks the emotional journey of a historic couple

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York



Before she read the script, Alicia Vikander says she wasn't aware *The Danish Girl* had a strong second female role. It's the tale of Lili Elbe (played by Eddie Redmayne), one of the first people, in the 1920s, to transition from male to female. That also meant parting ways with Gerda, her wife from when she was Einar, an esteemed painter. The *Ex Machina* actress takes the other lead, and she says — speaking to us while making the next *Bourne* movie — the film explores both a transgender pioneer and what her transition did to her relationship with Gerda, who had to find strength to let her go.

You do a lot of period films, from *A Royal Affair* to *Anna Karenina* to *Testament of*

Youth. Do you sometimes feel lost going from one era to another?

I get stuck in them. Sometimes I don't know what century I'm in. But it's a great skill to have as an actor, to have sets and costumes already there. It does a lot for you to be able to throw yourself into a new story and immediately get a sense of the world you're in when you get there.

The *Danish Girl* does bring you back to portraying Scandinavian culture.

It's part of my history and my life growing up. Back during *A Royal Affair*, I loved being back in the 18th century. I was able to find personal connections to Caroline Mathilde (her character), and it gave me a lot to being someone's voice from such a long time ago.... With *The Danish Girl* we tried to find historical inspirations, but it was also about meeting people, who had such generosity, in the transgender community, especially people like my character who had been friends or loved ones of people transitioning.

What kinds of things did you learn from people who had

been close to people transitioning?

Every single story ends up being extremely different. Sometimes they said it was tough to give them that time. They said they were also transitioning. Like any couple going through a huge change, they both needed to find their feet on the ground in a new location. That's something I could relate to with whatever you're going through as everything's changing around.

I'd argue this is also a great break-up film, and one that isn't about a couple who split bitterly. It's about their struggles to maintain a connection despite parting ways.

Love includes being able to let that person go, the person you love the most. You still have affection for someone, even when things get bad. It was a unique story, but I was amazed by the romantic aspect, and the love between them. Of course they go off on different roads, but they go on the same journey.... They know that and they're still able to reach out and tell the other person they're connected somehow. That's something I felt from page one to the end.



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Balancing the funny and the serious

PEOPLE PLACES THINGS

Kiwi actor departs from his usual roles in new film

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Jemaine Clement is perhaps Hollywood's least likely leading man — if only because he doesn't really want to be one.

"I've had a couple of things that were more dramatic or more a leading role (but) I wasn't interested in doing a leading role," explained the Kiwi comic-actor over the line from New Zealand.

"I think I just wanted to do other kinds of things like writing and doing music."

One half of the popular Flight of the Conchords, Clement has been active since the comedy duo's HBO series final episode aired in 2009 but mostly working in the shadows as a supporting player in movies like Dinner With Schmucks or Muppets

Most Wanted.

With this Friday's VOD release of the dramedy People Places Things however, Clement took on the rare role as leading man because "this time the idea didn't bother me; it didn't intimidate me like it once did."

In the film, Clement plays a graphic novelist flailing emotionally after he catches the mother of his twin girls having an affair with a mutual pal.

Forced into single fatherhood, he must juggle the minefield of being a dad and dating in Manhattan.

"Usually if someone is failing as a father, they're (less) in the story and you may not see that they have good intentions — you may not see that they're trying," said Clement, of his pull to the part that's drawn praise for its delicate balance of humour and hardship.

"Like real life, it's not all jokes and it's not all sad — it's somewhere in between."

Although Clement has been lauded for this compassionate leading man, he insists his aspirations lie in



Jemaine Clement, with Aundrea Gadsby and Gia Gadsby, in *People Places Things*. HANDOUT

remaining a supporting actor.

In fact, he has even begun talking with his former partner Bret McKenzie about reuniting Flight of the Conchords — although a return

to television is rather unlikely.

"It was like making a sitcom and recording an album in the time that you'd usually do one of those things.

Either one of those things is hard enough," reminisced Clement.

"I enjoyed that (but) it's just that in the whole TV series, it was a lot to do."

FAVOURITES

Jemaine Clement's favourite person, place and thing:

Favourite person

"Probably my son," admitted the comedian. "Usually I would answer my mum so it's between them — they have to fight it out."

Favourite place

"The Coromandel in New Zealand is really beautiful," said Clement of the country's popular holiday destination. "But New York is my favourite city so that will just have a battle too."

Favourite thing

"That's easy, my guitar," laughed Clement, who is planning on reuniting with his musical partner for Flight of the Conchords. "We have been hanging out and doing a little writing. It's not intensive yet (but) in a few months we'll be back into it."



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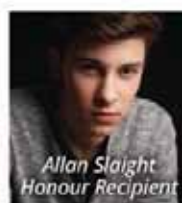
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5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE GOLDEN GLOBES

1 Oops!

The Golden Globes' official Twitter account was drawing flak even before the nominees were announced after mistaking presenter America Ferrera for Gina Rodriguez.

In a series of tweets, which have since been amended, the Globes linked to Rodriguez's twitter account (@HerelsGina) instead of Ferrera's (@AmericaFerrera).

Luckily, attentive social media users did what they do best and captured the offending tweets — while throwing in some snarky responses for good measure.



2 Canada's sole nominee

Irish-Canadian author Emma Donoghue was the only Canuck to pick up a nomination this year. Donoghue, who is based in London, Ont., got the nod for the adaptation of her novel, *Room*. The book tells the story of a young boy and his mother who are held captive in a shed. The film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this year and has been generating major Oscar buzz. Directed by Lenny Abrahamson, the movie also picked up Golden Globe nominations for best film drama and best film actress in a drama for Bree Larson, who plays the child's mother.



3 Must-sees before 2015 ends



Several big-screen nominees are not even being released until Christmas. Leonardo DiCaprio is nominated for *The Revenant*, a film about a 19th century frontiersman that is also in the running for best motion picture - drama, best director and best original score. Will Smith is nominated for *Concussion*, which tells the story of the doctor who discovers the prevalence of brain damage in professional football players.

4 No surprises here

It's no surprise that Julia Louis-Dreyfus picked up another nomination for her starring role in HBO series, *Veep*. It's Louis-Dreyfus's fourth nomination for the comedy, and the seventh in her career. Box office hit *The Martian* received three nominations: best picture comedy, best director (Ridley Scott) and best actor (Matt Damon). Released in October, the two-hour-plus sci-fi comedy has already grossed more than \$221 million in the U.S.



5 The omissions

Kevin Spacey, who took home the Golden Globe for best actor in a TV drama last year for *House of Cards*, was shut out this time around. *Mad Men* only got one nomination for its final season — Jon Hamm is up for best actor in a TV drama series.

And despite generating Oscar buzz and picking up Golden Globe nominations for best picture, best screenplay and best director, the ensemble cast for Boston Globe investigation drama *Spotlight* came up empty. Mark Ruffalo was nominated for another film, *Infinitely Polar Bear*, in which he plays a man with bipolar disorder.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Serial season two is here

PODCASTS

Taliban prisoner's story to be a TV show

The widely popular podcast *Serial* has arrived.

In the highly-anticipated second season, NPR producer Sarah Koenig tells the story of Bowe Bergdahl, a U.S. soldier who was taken prisoner by the Taliban after disappearing from a base in Afghanistan in 2009.

After five years in captivity, Bergdahl was released in a prisoner exchange and U.S. President Barack Obama announced that he was on his way home.

But, as Koenig explains, while Bergdahl's release was initially celebrated, "public reaction to his return flipped."

Soldiers from his unit called him a deserter and the U.S. army launched an investigation into how he was taken prisoner.

"Through all of this, Bergdahl has been quiet. He hasn't spoken to the press or done any interviews on TV. He's been like a ghost at the centre of a raucous



Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the focus of *Serial*'s second season, was held prisoner for years by the Taliban. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

fight," *Serial* explains.

In the first episode — called "DUSTWUN," the military acronym for "duty status — whereabouts unknown," which is available online — listeners hear Bergdahl's voice, from about 25 hours of taped phone conversations with filmmaker Mark Boal.

"There I was in the open desert

and I'm not about to outrun a bunch of motorcycles," Bergdahl tells Boal near the end of the episode about how he was taken. "I couldn't do anything against six or seven guys with AK47s. They pulled up, and that was it."

Boal, who wrote and produced *Zero Dark Thirty* and *The Hurt Locker*, is Koenig's production

partner for season two.

"This one idiosyncratic guy makes a radical decision at the age of 23, to walk away into Afghanistan, and the consequences of that decision, they spin out, wider and wider. And at every turn you're surprised, the picture changes," Koenig says in the first episode about Bergdahl's story.

"To get the full picture, you need to go very, very small, into one person's life — and also very, very big, into the war in Afghanistan."

People quickly took to social media to celebrate the podcast's return.

"More intriguing than I expected w. bergdahl's story," wrote Twitter user Lauren Woods, "guessing it will get even better."

"Raise your hand if all you really care about is listening to the first episode of season 2 of @serial," added Claire Cole.

And some were already hooked. "Just listened to *Serial* season 2. Pretty much got me engrossed. I'm into this story," wrote Amy Hoag.

Season two — which will be told over eight to 10 episodes, Koenig told the *New York Times* — is being developed into a TV show. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TV PERSONALITIES

Nardwuar recovers in hospital from stroke

Offbeat celebrity interviewer Nardwuar the Human Serviette is recovering from a stroke in Vancouver.

The humorous TV personality and musician, whose real name is John Ruskin, has the news posted on his Twitter account.

The posting issued Wednesday night says the 47-year-old YouTube star suffered the stroke at a party in Vancouver.

It also says he's recovering at Vancouver General Hospital.

The nasally voiced Vancouver native is known for his eccentric approach to interviews, which he conducts in a tartan tam cap.

His interview subjects have ranged from Snoop Dogg, Chuck D, Iggy Pop and Katy Perry to Rush's Geddy Lee and former U.S. president Gerald Ford. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chuck D and Nardwuar in Austin, Texas. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

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Jimmy Iovine: A year at Apple Music

INTERVIEW

Executive talks DJs, Drake, human-curated content

When Apple Music elbowed their way into the streaming market, they were late to the party: Songza had consciously coupled with Google Play, Spotify's catalogue granted every musical wish (that wasn't Taylor Swift) for free, and Tidal had an 18-artist supertrust of owners, including but not limited to Jay Z, Beyoncé, Kanye West, and Daft Punk.

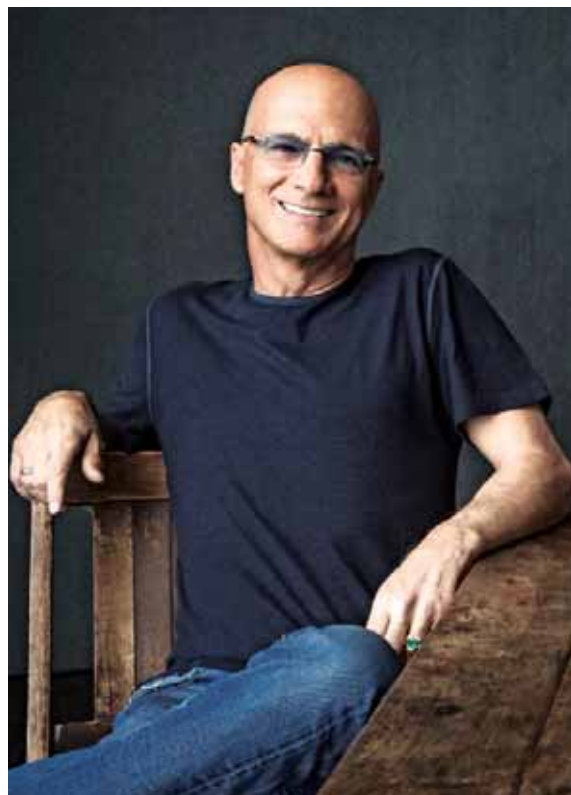
But like the guest that everyone was waiting for, all eyes turned to Apple Music when it arrived fashionably late last June, shepherded by Jimmy Iovine.

"We've only been open five months," Iovine, 62, says over the phone. "That's a short time. When you're at Apple it's not a short time because all eyes are on you from the minute you think about hatching."

As Apple drops its Best Of list, Iovine looks back on Apple Music's first year.

March: Get Lowe

Iovine made it an early priority to poach beloved BBC DJ Zane Lowe. "We went out and got who we felt was the best guy in the world for discovering new artists," says Iovine. Lowe's show on Beats 1 radio has had



"Are we there yet? No! Is it a work in progress? Yes!" Apple Music's Jimmy Iovine says of the company. CONTRIBUTED

such exclusives as an hour-long interview with Adele and first cracks at tracks by artists such as Coldplay and Skrillex.

June:

What A Time To Be Alive

When Apple Music launched,

they only needed two superstars: Torontonians Drake and The Weeknd, who performed I Can't Feel My Face for the first time at the launch. Drake has since peppered the service with exclusives, such as his dad jivin' Hotline Bling video and

Top 3 Songs on iTunes in 2015

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Uptown Funk, Mark Ronson (feat. Bruno Mars)

This throwback jam was the biggest hit of 2015.



2 See You Again, Wiz Khalifa (feat. Charlie Puth)

The hip-hop tribute scored the touching climax to Furious 7.



3 Thinking Out Loud, Ed Sheeran

Sheeran's guitar ballad bloomed during wedding season.



Top Albums on iTunes in the last year

1 25, Adele

The British ballad belter's record beat every other album released in 2015.



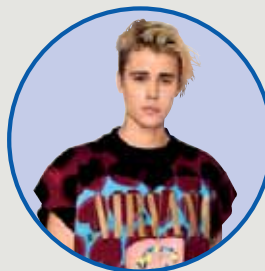
2 If You're Reading This It's Too Late, Drake

What release strategy? Drake's mix tapes didn't need marketing.



3 Purpose (Deluxe), Justin Bieber

Bieber joins the Canadian invasion of the albums' chart.



his team's OVOSOUND Radio show. "He's a very progressive artist as far as technology is concerned," Iovine says.

July: Press Playlist

A crusader for human-curated content, Iovine personally listened to thousands of playlists, from Trap Soul to Cleaning Up After The Kids, that had been developed by hundreds of Apple employees. He has a tip for aspiring New Year's Eve

playlist makers. "The whole thing about playlists is what song comes next," he says.

November:

You Had A Bad Day

On November 19, Iovine clumsily tried to underline Apple Music's usability on CBS This Morning by saying, "I've always known that women find it very difficult at times, some women, to find music."

The backlash online was

immediate.

December: Beats 2.0?

For all the service's success, Iovine is not done yet. "Like anything you're creating, I'm thrilled with some stuff, not so thrilled with other stuff," he says. "I like where we are with our audience reach, I like where we are with our subscriber base so far, I like where we are musically."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Lance McMillan
For Metro Canada



Dec. 17 will mark one year since U.S. President Barack Obama ordered the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba.

As it stands now, restrictions imposed by the embargo have only been eased through executive action and pertain mainly to travel and telecommunication. But change, albeit small, can be readily seen.

Walking down the streets of Havana, it is not unusual to see locals wearing clothing adorned with the American flag. Even taxis with American flags hanging in the window or dangling from rearview mirrors have become commonplace.

The island nation cannot yet fully embrace any real change, however, as it is up to Congress to lift the embargo that went into effect back in 1961. While the previous 113th Congress may have been one of the most unproductive congresses in U.S. history, the current 114th Congress seems to be on a better track.

So if you're planning on escaping the cold Canadian winter, Cuba should be on the top of your list as it may be the last chance to see it in its current state.



ALL PHOTOS BY LANCE MCMILLAN



TRAVEL NOTES BALI BARGAIN, FANCY LUGGAGE



Lombok is just one island east of Bali. CONTRIBUTED

Indonesia deal

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The new Quartmaster Homme carry-on. CONTRIBUTED

Ultimate carry-on

What to get the man who has everything? The perfect suitcase, of course. The new Ebby Rane Quartmaster Homme luxury carry-on keeps him organized, with seven inner pouches that fit together, guiding the packing process so nothing gets forgotten — ties, shoes, tech gear, shaving essentials, etc. A stylish little slice of Italian leather heaven. \$1,230, at EbbyRane.com.



The new Iberostar Playa Pilar, Cuba. CONTRIBUTED

New Cuba hotel

Just in time for the influx of American tourists, Iberostar Playa Pilar has opened on Key Guillermo in the Jardines del Rey archipelago, the hotel chain's 11th resort in Cuba. With 480+ rooms, the five-star resort faces the world's second-longest coral reef, and offers a flawless beach, three restaurants, plus a ton of water sports and nautical pursuits to help pass the time. Visit Iberostar.com. DOUG WALLACE

Fly off to the Panhandle this winter

FLORIDA'S HIDDEN GEM

Bohemian hamlet, oyster capital among road trip stops

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



This time of year, sun-seekers look south to Florida for an easy winter warm-up. But while the Sunshine State is mostly known for its massive family theme parks or Miami's night-life, there is an overlooked side that's equally as enchanting: the Panhandle. Here's a quick look at the best of the state's northern coastline.

Pensacola

A great starting place, Pensacola delivers the liveliness of a major city alongside an eight-mile stretch of unspoiled beach that's practically deserted this time of year. Relax in the sun or wander around Fort Pickens — a well-preserved Civil War-era garrison located at the beach's western tip that notably included Apa-

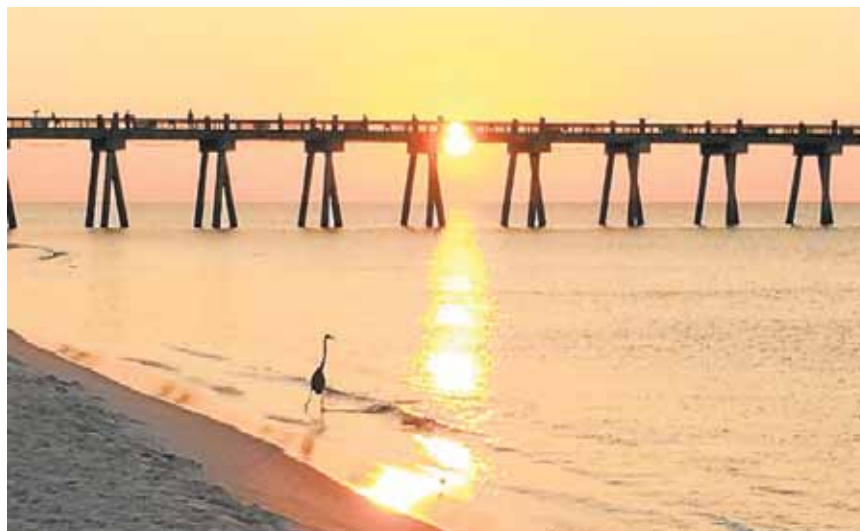
che warrior Geronimo among its historic internees.

For airplane buffs, the National Naval Aviation Museum is a world-class gallery complete with more than 150 aircraft, flight simulators and an IMAX theatre. Stay at the Margaritaville Beach Hotel and watch dolphins splash from your balcony as the spectacular sun rises over the Pensacola Pier.

The Emerald Coast

East of Pensacola, this beautiful coastline doesn't just possess pristine beaches but the unique town of Destin (known as the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village") is where anglers can reel in deep-water fish thanks to a nearby 100-foot underwater drop-off.

As you travel further east, don't miss Grayton Beach — a bohemian hamlet with one of the most idyllic beaches in America. While there, grab a drink at The Red Bar, a funky jazz club that's hosted such celebrities as Sheryl Crow within its kitschy art-covered walls. Finish the day at Panama City Beach with its many garish roadside attractions of go-karts and pirate-themed mini-golf.



The Pensacola Pier in front of the Margaritaville Beach Hotel at sunrise. STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

The Forgotten Coast

Before the coastline begins to curl south lies Florida's most seductive secret — the Forgotten Coast. The historic town of Apalachicola bleeds charm with its Victorian architecture and old brick warehouses. Once a main port for the cotton-boom era, Apalachicola is now the

oyster capital of Florida, evident by the thousands of shucked shells adorning gardens and walkways. Try fresh mollusks at the popular Owl Café where you can wash the delicacies down with local ale from Oyster City Brewery.

For a real antebellum experience, stay at the Gibson Inn, a

108-year-old mansion wrapped in wide, white porches. For a great day trip, drive 90 minutes north to Wakulla Springs State Park to swim amongst endangered manatees and stop in Sopchoppy en route for a glimpse at the mysterious white squirrels that inexplicably inhabit the area — truly a wonder to behold.

+ LOCAL EATS

Sno-balls

A popular treat of shaved ice topped with a variety of flavoured syrups and cream is best served near Pensacola at Tommy's Sno-Balls — a beloved roadside shack with hundreds of varieties that include kitschy names like Worm Juice and Alligator Blood.

Grouper sandwich

In Florida's Panhandle, you can't go wrong with any fresh local seafood; however, the grouper sandwich is a Gulf Coast specialty. A meaty, light white fish, the grouper makes for a very flavourful feast whether grilled, fried or blackened.

Tupelo honey

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CURIO



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Making Disney an even more magical kingdom

ORLANDO

Parks get boost in technology, new offerings

Vawn Himmelsbach
For Metro Canada

If you haven't been to Disney World in a while (or ever), the parks are making big changes — all designed to improve the guest experience.

From "smart" MagicBands to revamped offerings at the newly rebranded Disney Springs — not to mention a cool new Star Wars adventure — there's plenty of magic happening in Orlando, Fla.

And there are special deals for Canadians to help offset the decline of the loonie.

Disney Springs (formerly Downtown Disney) has been undergoing a complete transformation, with the addition of new neighbourhoods slated for completion this summer.

"Most of the change is hap-

pening in The Landing, a true retail and dining complex," said Darcy Clark, marketing manager for Disney Springs. "This is all about the dining."

A notable addition is Morimoto Asia, from Japanese master chef Masaharu Morimoto — known for his appearances on Iron Chef America — featuring pan-Asian cuisine such as Peking duck. More restaurants are slated to open in 2016.

Town Center is a brand-new neighbourhood for shoppers, currently under construction. "Our guests tell us when they're on vacation they want to shop — and not just for Mickey sweatshirts and Tinker Bell coffee mugs," said Clark. "They want designer handbags." Town Center will feature more than 60 third-party retailers, including the likes of Zara, Tommy Bahama, UGG and Sprinkles Cupcakes.

Over the past year, Disney has continued to roll out a number of enhancements it announced in 2014, including MagicBands, FastPass+ and a mobile app.

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To address the declining loonie, Disney's Canadian office is offering Canucks a discount on a package for a family of four that includes a five-night stay at a participating hotel with four-day theme park tickets, for travel completed by July 1, 2016. Another option is the Art of Animation Resort, which Disney opened in 2012 as a value-add budget property, ideal for kids with its Nemo-themed pool and Pixel Play arcade.

com and the accompanying mobile app, guests can plan their trip, make changes on the go, purchase theme park tickets, make dining reservations and view an interactive map (as well as wait times for rides).

While wait times have been an issue in the parks, Disney has responded with FastPass+, allowing guests to reserve access to rides,

shows or Disney character greetings either in advance or the day of their visit (wait times can be reduced from well over an hour to five or 10 minutes). Guests can make up to three selections at one park per day: Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios and Epcot.

The MagicBand is an RF-enabled wristband that connects guests to the choices they made online. It serves as park admission and access to FastPass+ experiences, as well as a room key and optional payment method within the parks.

And, in the coming months and years, there will be new attractions to experience within the four parks.

This month will see the launch of the new Star Wars Launch Bay exhibit at Hollywood Studios, inspired by the latest film in the franchise, Star Wars: The Force Awakens. A Star Wars land will begin construction in 2016. And in 2017, Disney will launch The World of Avatar in Animal Kingdom with a ride called Na'vi River Journey.



Animal Kingdom is bringing to life the mythical world of Pandora, inspired by the movie Avatar. CONCEPT ART, WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING

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The wait is over ... Aldo and McGregor ready for battle

UFC

No love lost as cocky Irishman insists he'll beat proven champ

Jose Aldo is the only featherweight champion in UFC history. The brilliant Brazilian star is widely considered the pound-for-pound best mixed martial artist in the world. He hasn't lost a fight in 10 years.

And yet in the casinos of Las Vegas, Aldo is a betting underdog in the main event of UFC 194 on Saturday night.

Behold the power of Conor McGregor, the loquacious Irish challenger who has persuaded the world he can end 2015 by dethroning a king.

"He is already beaten," McGregor said. "I look in his eyes, and I see someone who knows his era is over. It's a new era. It's my era. I almost want to comfort him. I want to say, 'Don't worry. It will all be over soon.'"

A year of promotional hype and fan anticipation culminates at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in the main event of the biggest show on a huge three-day weekend of UFC fights.

Aldo (25-1) and McGregor (18-2) have traded innumerable insults and menacing glares during the buildup to this injury-delayed showdown. It's finally time to find out whether



UFC featherweight champion Jose Aldo faces off with interim UFC featherweight champion Conor McGregor, right, during the final pre-fight news conference for UFC 194 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Wednesday. LAS VEGAS SUN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McGregor can back up some of the most delicious bravado in recent sports history.

"I get in there, and I put on a show," McGregor said. "I come to fight, and this fight will be

a performance. I'm not just going to beat Jose. I'm going to embarrass Jose in there. I don't need to gather any more intel, any more research. It's done. He has already lost."

While McGregor's personality is both magnetic and divisive, Aldo is no wallflower himself, as evidenced by his testy relations with the UFC for the past few years. He has reacted with amusement and anger to McGregor's provocations while adding his own jabs, albeit without the inimitable showmanship of McGregor's rants.

"I'm going to hit him, and he's going to sleep," Aldo said



He is already beaten. I look in his eyes, and I see someone who knows his era is over. It's a new era. It's my era.

Ireland's Conor McGregor on champ Jose Aldo

NHL

1,000th game nears for coach Vigneault

Alain Vigneault paused for a moment when asked what advice he would give a younger version of himself — one who had yet spend a single game behind an NHL bench as a head coach.

"You sacrifice a lot of things on a personal level," he said. "The balance people have in life between their family lives and their work is really tested and put to the limit. I've never felt I worked a day in my life because I love the game."

"I was willing to make that sacrifice," Vigneault will coach his 1,000th NHL game on Friday

when his New York Rangers visit the Edmonton Oilers, a milestone he has reached despite a roller-coaster career.

The Quebec City native was in his late 30s and leading the Montreal Canadiens in the 2000-01 season when he was blindsided by an abrupt firing just over three years into his tenure.

After a brief career as an NHL defenceman,



Alain Vigneault
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vigneault got his start coaching in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and as an assistant with the expansion Ottawa Senators.

He knew he would have to take a step backwards to get another crack at the big time after Montreal, so he signed on with the QMJHL's PEI Rocket before the Vancouver Canucks hired him to coach their AHL affiliate.

And when then-Canucks general manager Dave Nonis fired Marc Crawford in 2006, Vigneault was the man entrusted with getting the club to the next level.

Vigneault — who has record of 538-349-112 as he prepares to become the 23rd coach in NHL history to reach 1,000 games — then got hired by the New York Rangers, but got off to a slow start in New York. Vigneault stayed patient and led the Rangers to a Stanley Cup appearance in 2013-14 before losing out in the Eastern Conference final last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOLF

Brooke's goals for 2016

Golfer Brooke Henderson had two dreams come true this year: she became a member of the LPGA Tour and won her first tournament at that level.

She's setting her sights even higher in 2016. Henderson hopes to continue her ascent on the top women's professional golf circuit and also lead Canada to the podium when the sport makes its return to the Olympic program next summer in Rio.

"It's an amazing opportunity that I have just to play in the Olympics and to play on the LPGA Tour. They're both dreams that I've had since I was young."

Henderson, a former top-ranked amateur, showed this past season that she was the real deal. Her statement performance came in August at the Cambia Portland Classic, when she blew away the field with a whopping eight-stroke victory.

Henderson was about three weeks shy of her 18th birthday at the time. She was granted immediate LPGA Tour membership by commissioner Mike Whan after the win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brooke Henderson GETTY IMAGES

MOOSEHEADS

Herd hosts Sea Dogs and Voltigeurs this weekend

The Halifax Mooseheads host a pair of games at home this weekend.

First up are the Saint John Sea Dogs on Friday night, with puck drop at 7 p.m. inside the Scotiabank Centre in downtown Halifax. The Herd then faces off against the Drummondville Voltigeurs at 3 p.m., back at the Scotiabank Centre, on Sunday.

The Mooseheads hope to bounce back from two straight losses, 6-1 to the Val-d'Or Foreurs last Saturday

and 5-2 to the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies last Friday night.

The Herd are currently in 16th place overall in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, and fifth or second-last place in the Maritimes Division.

The Sea Dogs, meanwhile, are second in the division and eighth in the league, while the Voltigeurs are 10th overall and fourth in the West Division.

Visit halifaxmooseheads.ca or ticketatlantic.com for ticket information.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Platini to learn if suspension lifted

FIFA INVESTIGATION

Court of Arbitration for Sport to give its decision

Michel Platini will find out Friday morning if his 90-day FIFA ban will be temporarily lifted by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

CAS said Thursday it will publish its ruling at 10 a.m. Swiss time.

Platini asked a CAS panel at a preliminary hearing on Tuesday to be allowed to work. The UEFA president is currently banned and his FIFA presidential candidacy is on hold.

In Paris, the UEFA executive committee will meet on Friday morning and the 2016 European Championship draw is set for Saturday evening.

The CAS panel could lift the ban without taking a position on Platini's guilt or innocence. Interim bans can be overturned because the judges feel it is unfair and out of proportion.

Platini and FIFA President Sepp Blatter face life bans at FIFA ethics committee hearings in Zurich next week.

The case centres on Blatter's approval of \$2 million of FIFA money that Platini got in 2011 as backdated salary. Platini was a presidential adviser to Blatter from 1998-2002.



UEFA President Michel Platini. SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

Both deny wrongdoing, but acknowledge there was only a verbal agreement which they say is valid under Swiss law.

Still, FIFA was not required to pay Platini when more than five years elapsed since the work was completed.

The timing of the payment, which was not disclosed to the FIFA and UEFA executive committees, also raised suspicion. Platini was paid in Febru-

ary 2011, three months before a FIFA presidential election, which Blatter won.

Both men face sanctions for a range of potential FIFA Code of Ethics violations, including bribery, conflicts of interest and false accounting.

Blatter's hearing is next Thursday with FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert and Platini follows at FIFA headquarters the next day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RUGBY

Last chance for Olympics

The Canadian men's rugby sevens team must go to Monaco for its final Olympic qualification bid. World Rugby announced Thursday that the men's final Olympic repechage tournament will take place June 18-19 at Monaco's Stade Louis.

Canada will compete against Chile, Germany, Ireland, Hong Kong, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Samoa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zimbabwe for the final remaining Olympic men's berth.

The winner joins Argentina, Australia, Britain, Fiji, France, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, the U.S., and hosts Brazil in Rio de Janeiro next summer.

Canada lost 21-5 by the U.S. in June in North Carolina in the final of 2015 NACRA Sevens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Oilers suddenly hot with 4-game streak

Riding the wave of a four-game winning streak, the Edmonton Oilers are discovering a new sense of confidence and a winning mentality.

It's been a long time since the Oilers believed they could be in a playoff race at Christmas, but four home wins — including victories over the three best NHL road teams, Dallas, Boston and San Jose — find them just three points back of third-place San Jose in the Pacific Division.

"From Day 1 we always thought we were a good team ... now we're starting to show it," said forward Jordan Eberle, who has scored in three straight games.

The six-year veteran said it was a matter of the players "realizing we are a good team" then getting some wins to instill confidence.

"This is the best team since



Jordan Eberle GETTY IMAGES

I've been here. It feels good to get that winning mentality back."

Eberle missed 13 games with a shoulder injury and was the subject of trade rumours until the recent home stand that ends Friday night against the New York Rangers. Now he's "starting to make the little plays ... and feeling good contributing to the team again."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro OBITUARIES

FLETCHER, ALEXIS CATHRYN

"Rest now our darling, dancing in the arms of the angels"



Age 17 years of Bedford, NS passed away on December 8th, 2015 at the Halifax Infirmary QE II. Born in Victoria, British Columbia, she was the beloved daughter of Jeff and Bev Fletcher. Alexis adored and idolized her two older sisters Alycia and Ashley. Together the three of them laughed and brought love, life, and joy to our precious family. Alexis had a kind and tender heart. Her beautiful smile could light up a room. She was a fun and loyal friend. She was sensitive and caring. Her goodness and beauty shone through even on her darkest days. Alexis was a talented artist, creating amazing drawings and paintings, designing and sewing clothing, a wonderful knitter, and fiber artist. Her dream was to become a fine arts teacher. She loved to dance. Her glowing stage presence captivated audiences. She studied dance from the age of 3, and loved her dance friends and teachers at Dartmouth Dance Academy, and the Maritime Conservatory of the Performing Arts. She loved to travel and enjoyed many family vacations including trips to Mexico, Florida, the Caribbean, Paris and Brussels. But her favourite of all were family trips back home to Manitoba, boating with her cousins and enjoying the beach at Delta with her family. Alexis gave us so much in her short 17 years. She was a spiritual and non-judgmental soul who saw the goodness in everyone. We will hold her forever in our hearts. She is survived by her parents; her sisters Alycia and Ashley, of Bedford; her grandparents Brian and Ida Miller and Andy and Jody Fletcher all of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. She is also survived by her aunts and uncles: Darren and Lori Miller, Cathryn and Darren Granger, and Meaghan and Evan Johnston, as well as her cousins: Shaelyn, Morgan, Kamryn, Sadie, Chase, Jane and Halle. Visitation will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Atlantic Funeral Home, 771 Main Street, Dartmouth. A celebration of Alexis's life will be held Monday, December 14th 2015, 10:30 a.m. at Bedford United Church. Interment to follow in the summer in her parents' home town of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Donations may be made in memory of Alexis to the IWK Mental Health Program, c/o IWK Foundation, B220-5855 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4S2. The family wishes to thank Dr. Farah Kapur, all the emergency services, police officers, paramedics, IWK Mental Health, the staff of Charles P. Allan High School, and friends, especially Jake Trider and Janet MacNeil. Also our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing friends and neighbours, and to the entire community for your outpouring of love and support. We will not give Alexis's depression the final word. We will all rise above it and hold her high in the light of our love.

Online condolences may be made by visiting the Dartmouth Chapel at www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com



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RECIPE Mini Turkey Meatloaves



PHOTO: MANA VISNTEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

These meatloaves are great to make ahead and freeze — then you can pull out as many (or as few) as you need on any given night.

Ready in

Prep time: 60 minutes

Serves 4**Ingredients**

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/3 cup onion, diced fine
- 1/3 cup celery, diced fine
- 1/3 cup carrot, diced fine
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 1/2 cup of rolled oats
- 1 1/2 lb of ground turkey
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup Parmesan, grated
- 2 Tbsp ketchup
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Warm up olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Add your vegetables and the fennel seeds and allow them to soften, about 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool a bit.
3. In a large mixing bowl, place meat, oats, ketchup, sauteed vegetables, cheese and a whisked egg. Mix it all together thoroughly — you want each bite to have a mix of all the elements.
4. Using a 1/3 cup measure, spoon mixture and place each scoop into a cup of a muffin tin. In a small bowl, mix together 2 Tbsp of ketchup and 1 tsp of Worcestershire sauce. Use a small spoon to smear this glaze over the top of your mini meatloaves.
5. Bake for 40 minutes. The internal temperature for meatloaf should be 160 to 165 F.

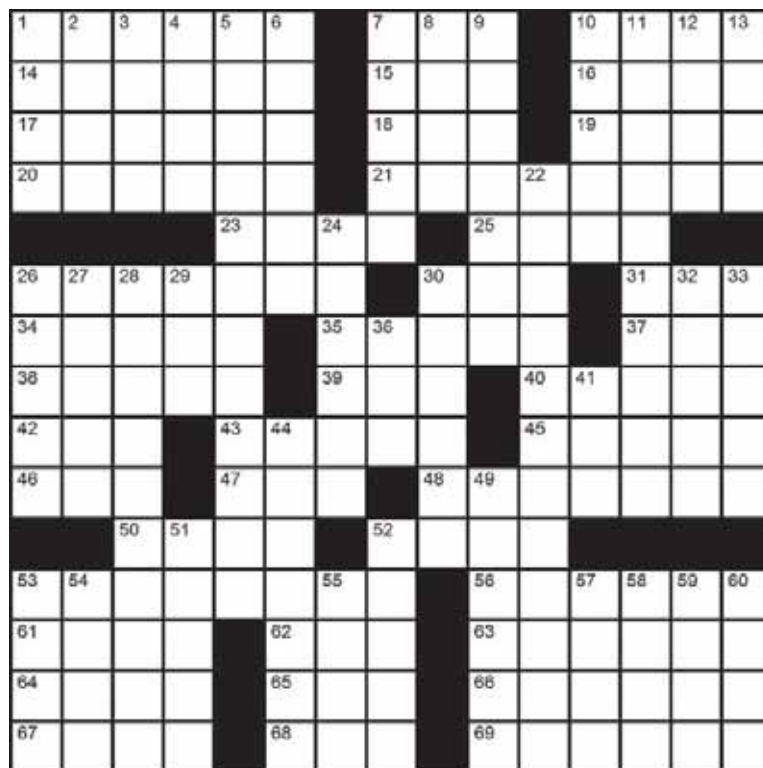
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "Sleep that knits up the ravel'd _ of care..." - Macbeth, Act II, Scene 2
7. Joan of _
10. Cried
14. _ _ pants
15. _ polloi
16. Some: 2 wds.
17. Mosaic components
18. Ms. DeGeneres, to pals
19. Single-named rock bassist
20. Bahamas capital
21. Prized-players
23. Alum
25. 'Class' or 'Luck' suffix
26. Javas
30. Ms. Field of movies, to pals
31. Financial deg.
34. Precise
35. Pedestal
37. Western prov.
38. 1970s music
39. Klutz
40. Feigned cry of enthusiasm: 2 wds.
42. Want _ (Newspaper section)
43. Ms. Shriver
45. Some space objects
46. Ms. McEntire, briefly
47. Hill-building insect
48. Archived documents
50. Better Than _ (Rock band)
52. Alberta village southeast of Calgary



53. In a sincere manner
56. "That's groovy with me": 2 wds.
61. Certain conjunctions
62. Not 'neath
63. Ms. Dion of song
64. Leave in, in

- proofreading
65. Ms. Lambert of country, to pals
66. Some wading birds
67. _ de combat (Out of action)
68. Impatient shout!
69. Computer clickety-

click-clickers

DOWN

1. Rotate
2. Moon goddess
3. Building additions
4. Woeful word
5. From Earth, one would take approxi-

- mately six to eight months: 3 wds.
6. Make certain/check
7. Up in front
8. Breadbasket bun
9. Irish actor Mr. Murphy of new whale adventure "In the Heart of the Sea" (2015)

10. Drifts through the air
11. "Op.23, No.6, Prelude in _" by Russian composer/pianist Rachmaninoff
12. Equal
13. Christmas poem opener...
22. Newfoundland: Locale on Fogo Island for those who rarely-stop-over?
24. Classify
26. Aromatic tree
27. Zinc _ (Skin irritation cream)
28. Michael who plays the Scottish lead in "Macbeth" (2015)
29. US broadcasting regulator
30. Journey amongst the lions
32. 1990: Madonna's _ Ambition World Tour
33. Chasm
36. _ Chi (Martial Art)
41. Owl's utterance
44. " _ of a Murder" (1959) starring James Stewart
49. Draw out a response
51. Piquancies
52. Christmas-time resin
53. Mixture
54. Not duped: 2 wds.
55. "Star Wars" (1977) role
57. Bit from a movie
58. Van Gogh's Bank of the _ at Auvers
59. Humdinger
60. Fewer

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ **Aries** March 21 - April 20
Everything should be going well for you now and today's new moon in your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius will make life even more enjoyable.

♉ **Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Today's new moon puts emphasis on finances, especially investments and property issues and anything of a monetary nature that involves other people. Lady Luck is smiling on you, so make some profitable moves.

♊ **Gemini** May 22 - June 21
If you have fallen out with a partner, loved one or friend, or even a work colleague, this is the perfect day to get back on good terms with them. You may have to admit you were wrong but it will be worth it.

♋ **Cancer** June 22 - July 23
It's unlikely you will be impressed by someone's aggressive attitude. Do not, however, try to confront them. They just got out of the wrong side of bed this morning.

♌ **Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's new moon urges you not to limit yourself in any way, shape or form. Creatively and professionally you are at the top of your game, so be active, be ambitious and above all be assertive.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get tough with someone. If you don't do it now it will mean an even bigger showdown later on, so let them know where they are going wrong and what they can do to make it right.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs your ability to communicate makes it easy for you to win people over. Use that ability to get others to do the small stuff while you focus on the big picture.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you get an offer that could bring you money you should take it. It will mean more work and you will have to sacrifice other things but if you turn it down you will kick yourself later.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look out for your own interests and do something for yourself for a change. Today's new moon in your sign promises great things will happen. You deserve your success.

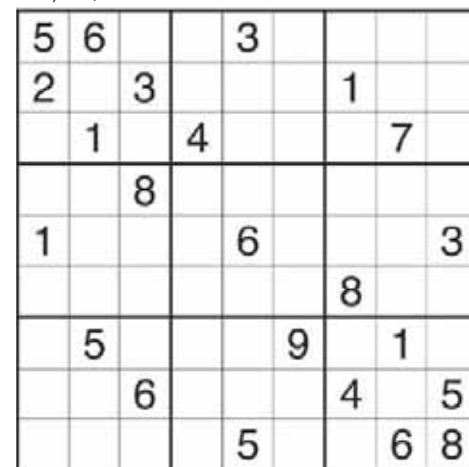
♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be tempted to give up on something today but the planets warn if you stop now you will regret it later in the month. Keep going. You are on the brink of a breakthrough.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good time for friendships and group activities but don't spread yourself thin. Where your work and creative activities are concerned don't start anything new because what happens tomorrow will require all your attention and energy.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be ambitious but the planets warn you won't be able to reach your goals alone. Look for people who can assist you and ask for help.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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